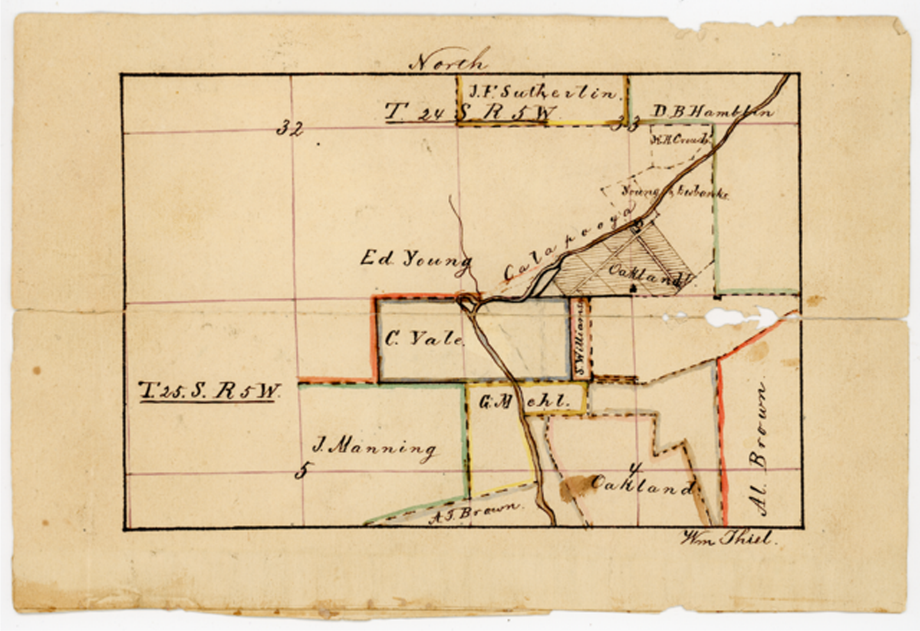
Thiel, William

1837-1903
Dem
USDS
SES

Contract 260	1877
to	
Special Instructions	1893

William was born in Germany and was educated there in the discipline of surveying. He came to the U. S. in 1853 and soon left for Oregon in 1854 via Panama. William served in the Indian Wars of 1855-56, for which he was never paid. He married a local girl, Mary Delia Watkins, in 1868, and together they had eleven children, ten of whom survived their parents. Future Deputy Surveyor Oscar Thiel was their first child. William was twice Douglas County Surveyor in 1874-76 and 1884-86, a Justice of the Peace, and a Member of the State Legislature.

William surveyed five Contracts for eight total townships in Southwest Oregon from 1877-79. Three were near Reedsport and two were at Drain. A few years later in 1887, he surveyed the boundary of the Klamath Reservation by Special Instructions, and he surveyed Contract 534 in 1889 with Edward A. Hargraves as compassman, again at Reedsport. His last solo Contract was for three townships just East of Canyonville, where he also surveyed 13 DLCs. Two sons, Arthur and Oscar were crewmen on these last Contracts.


North
J.F. Sutherlin.
T. 24 S. R 5 W.
D.B Hamblin
32
33
Young & Eubanks
Calapooya
Ed. Young
Oakland
C. Vale.
S. Williams
T. 25. S. R 5 W.
G. Mehl.
J. Manning
5
4
Oakland.
Al. Brown
A.J. Brown.
Wm. Thiel.

Re: Overlay of survey
Wally Dunsmoor – January 12 2026

Sorry, forgot to add that I compared the lettering of the Thiel proposal for the Baker claim and the drawing of the school lands purchased by Charles Vail. It appears to me that Thiel did both drawings. Makes sense, he was the Douglas county surveyor so he was around until the 1870's in Oakland.

Wally

Re: Overlay of survey
Wally Dunsmoor – January 12 2026

Hi Jeff,

I just tried to match the Thiel drawing to the layout of Baker's DLC, the Calapooya, etc.

Not a great match but you can see how, maybe, which part of the claim the Vails were offered first

There is nothing older than this map in the steel box, eh ? What a gem, working out how they were dividing property within the Young-Vail-Euberts….why weren't the claims of Green and Tibbetts shown, they were living in Oakland by 1855, before this drawing was made ? My guess is that the focus here was on the recently purchased Baker claim.

Let me know is this works. I'm having computer and mouse problems, it might be time for a new iMac.

Dropbox download;
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/evj5zzf0ehuini2v83ifb/image_123.mov?rlkey=2i0uq007sucou2w2ry5r34i53&dl=0

Cheers,   Wally

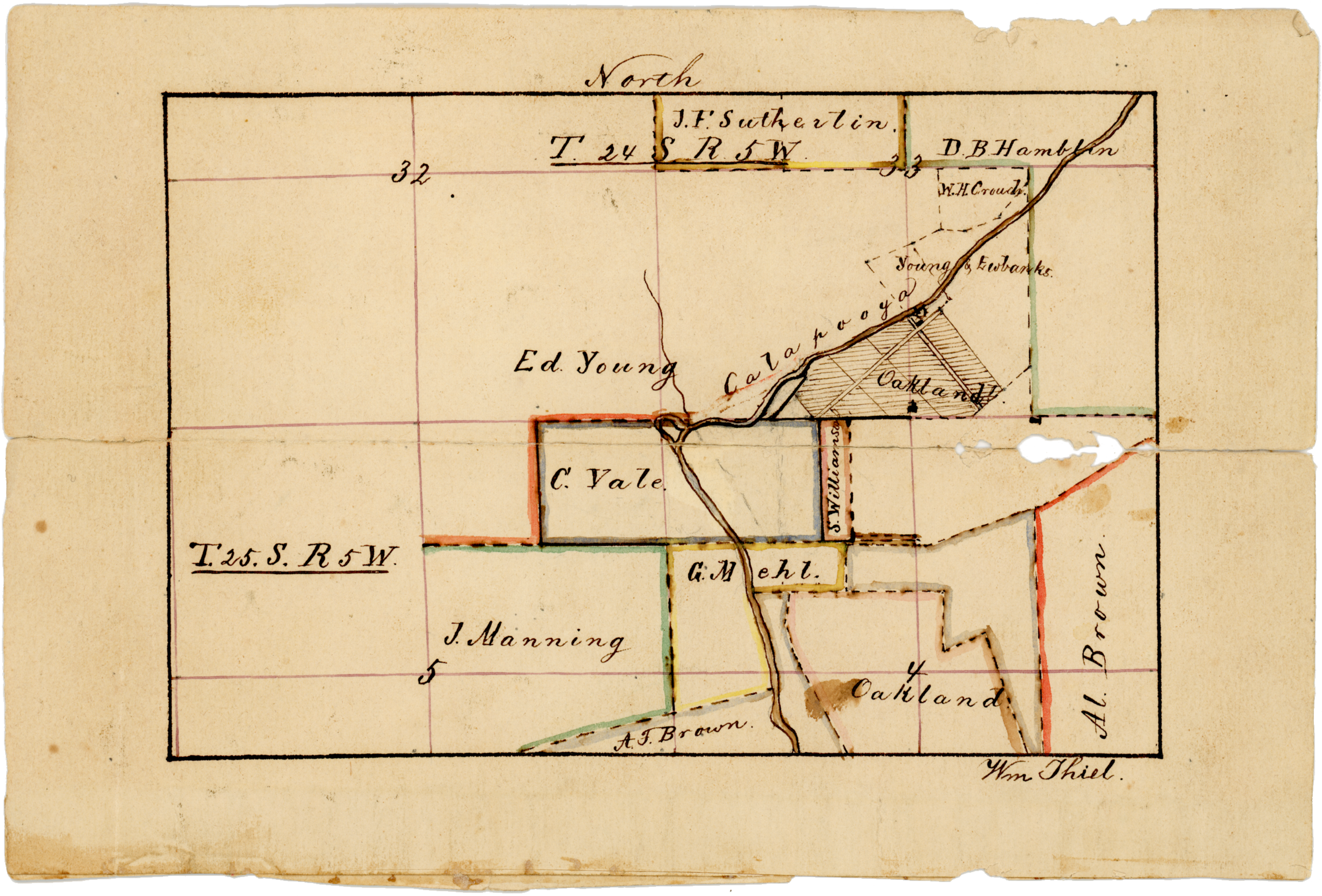
Re: Donation Land Claims
Wally Dunsmoor – January 11 2026

Hi Jeff,

A German surveyor arrives in 54'. He goes to the Yakima wars and meets other Umpqua settlers, such as Ziba Dimmick. I figure he might have come back to Oakland along with Dimmick or others and then was consulted by the Young's and the soon-to-be Vails about how to subdivide the Baker DLC. The inclusion of a plot for Eubanks & Young probably means that the marriage was taking place soon. Green & Tibbetts are not shown, which is odd since Mary Young married Wm O Green in 1855, two years before her younger sister, Amanda, married Charles Vail.

I would then place this drawing in 1857, near to the time the Vails were married and the Baker DLC was purchased.

Wally


North
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D.B Hamblin
32
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W.H. Crouch
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Calapooya
Ed. Young
Oakland
C. Vale
S. Williams
T. 25. S. R 5 W.
G. Mehl.
J. Manning
5
4
Oakland
A.F. Brown.
Al. Brown
Wm Thiel.

Land Claim Map Oakland Oregon

Email Notes newest first

Jeffrey Hunt – January 11 2026

Wally,

This is amazing information. I'm just flabbergasted! It had to have been a work in progress or proposal - when did Thiel start surveying?

Does it connect any with that other map from about two weeks ago?

Jeffrey Hunt – January 11 2026

very interesting! A practice map of sorts? Hopefully there will be more info in the wallet to explain it - only about 20 more items - miscellaneous things for the most part.

Wally Dunsmoor – January 11 2026

Hi Jeff,

Yes, this map is an eye opener. Wm Thiel (name is familiar) might have been a Surveyor, as many settlers were. However; this drawing makes absolutely no sense as an existing property layout.

Baker's DLC included the area of Old Town Oakland. The farm was in the centre of Baker's DLC. The Calapooya crosses the claim but doesn't cross the farm, the creek is the South property line. Sutherlin's DLC's (3 or 4 Sutherlin's) is in what is now Sutherlin, South of Oakland. JF Sutherlin's DLC is South of Oakland, not North.

Notice that C. Vail's plat is at the turn of the creek. Baker's DLC included that area but that's where the mill was, not the house and 80 acres that the Vail's bought out the Young's share. Ed (sp) ED Young's name is shown with the remainder of the Baker claim.

The plat of "Young & Eubanks". That is ED Young's next to youngest sister, Surilda Young, who married Presley Eubanks in 1855. Their DLC was just North of the Vail farm, next to the DLC of Wm Brackett (which Young & Vail purchased) not on the Calapooya or on the Baker DLC.

So, this map may have been a first attempt to divide the Baker DLC into farms for the Vails and the Eubanks. Changes were made before the actual staking of the Eubanks claim and the Vail farm.

I'll include a layout of the DLC's showing the final disposition of the Young & Vail properties and their neighbours.

Wally

Jeffrey Hunt – January 11 2026

Hi Wally,

I thought I'd email you a copy of the map, just in case I'm unable to get to it today. My hunch is you'll really be able to use it—if you don't already have a copy.

Take care,

Jeff

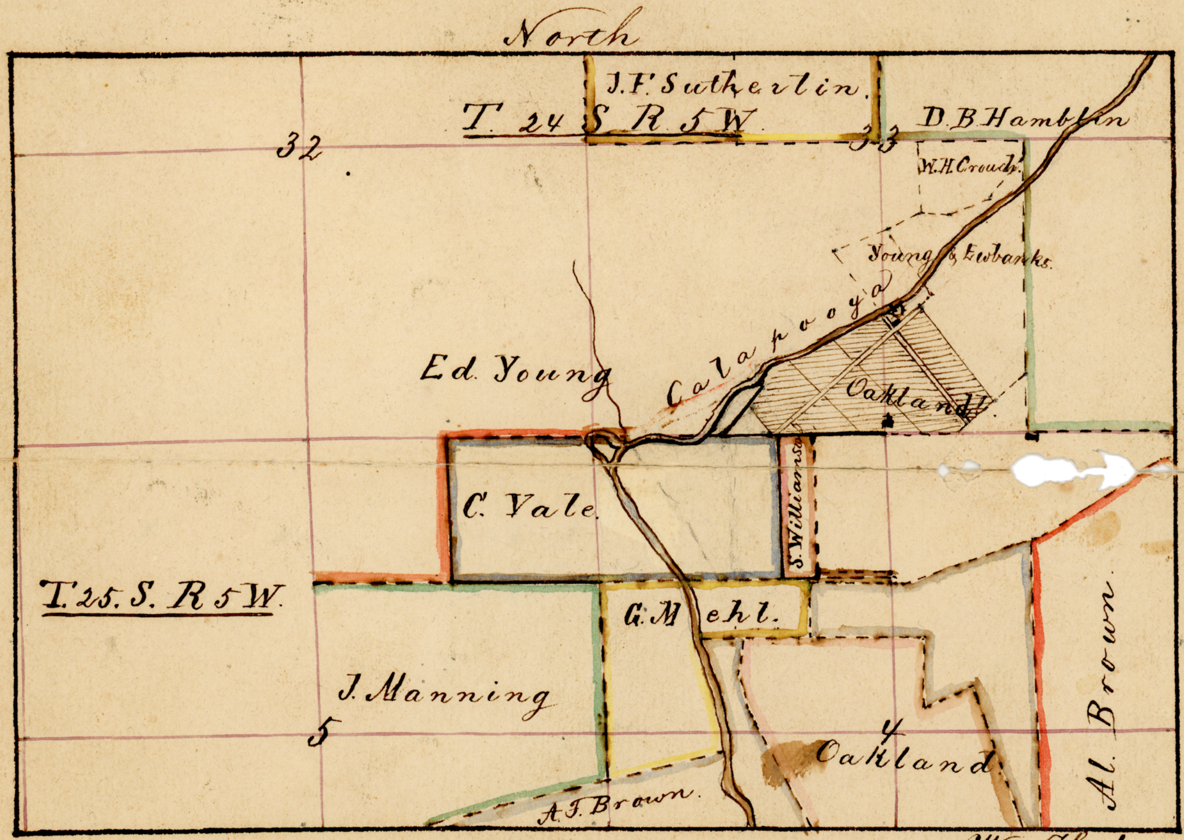
Re: Final layout of Baker's DLC
Email Notes

Jeffrey Hunt – January 11 2026

Hey - I was hoping you might know more about this one - the second map, which you do. :-) It was a loose page in the wallet but may have been combined also with that first map. I don't really know. Need to finish the rest to see if there are other related docs in there.

I was thinking of timeline. When they arriived via the 1853 Elliott cutoff and the establishment of the claims. That might answer a few question also. Interesting about the numbers being reversed - I may run that by the commenters on the Forgotten Oregon fb page. :-)

Jeff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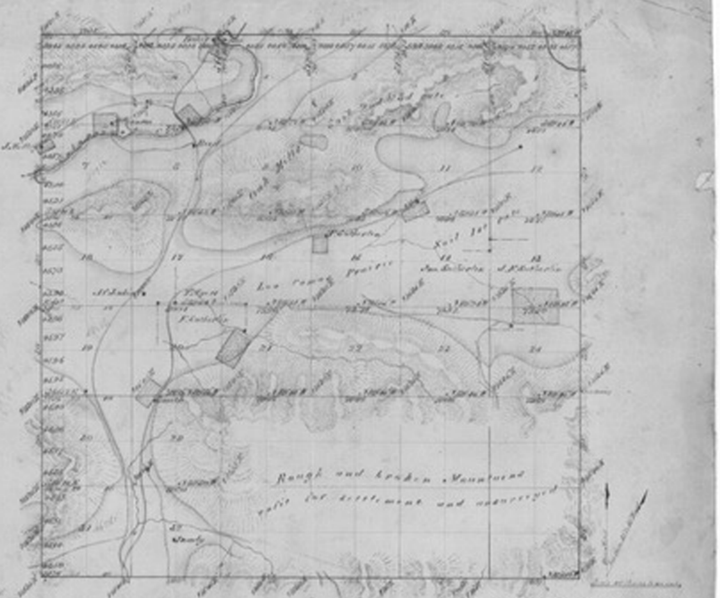
C. Vale.
S. Williamson
T. 25. S. R 5 W.
G. Mehl.
J. Manning
5
4
Oakland.
Al. Brown
A.J. Brown.

Wm Thiel.

672

Township No 25 South Range No 5 West Willamette Meridian


Rough and broken Mountains
unfit for settlement and unsurveyed

Surveys designated	By whom surveyed	Contract No.	Contract Date	Amt of Surveying Miles	Chains	Links	When surveyed	When entered in the Gen. Land Office Accounts
Township Lines	Elder & Gale	31	April 7th 1853	12	43	26	September 1 1853	3d Quarter 1853
Subdivisions	Elder & Gale	31	April 7th 1853	50	03	62	October 20th 1853	4th Quarter 1853

The above Map of Township No 26 South of Range No 5 West of the Willamette Meridian, Territory of Oregon is strictly conformable to the field notes of the survey thereof on file in this office which have been examined and approved.
Surveyor Genl's Office
Oregon City October 1st 1853

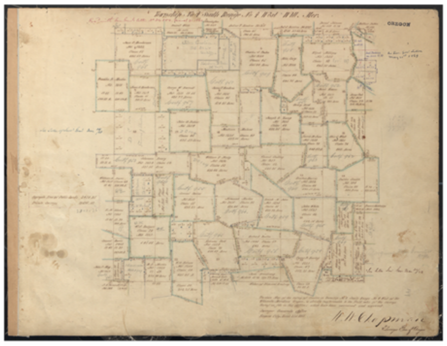
More Maps
Email Notes

Wally Dunsmoor – January 11 2026

Hi again,

Noticed that this survey was made between Sept & Oct of 1853. Those are the months that the Lost Wagon Train was crossing the Snake River & arriving at the Cascades. The Young's second son was born at Silver Lake on 18 October.

Baker had started his farming and his house had been moved from the Mill site to the farm. Also, the 4 Sutherlins were settled as well as Reed, Williamson & Medley. In 54' & 55' the wagons from the Elliott Train arrived to claim their DLC's.


Township No 4 South Range No 1 West Will. Mer.
OREGON

Re: Donation Land Claims
Email Notes

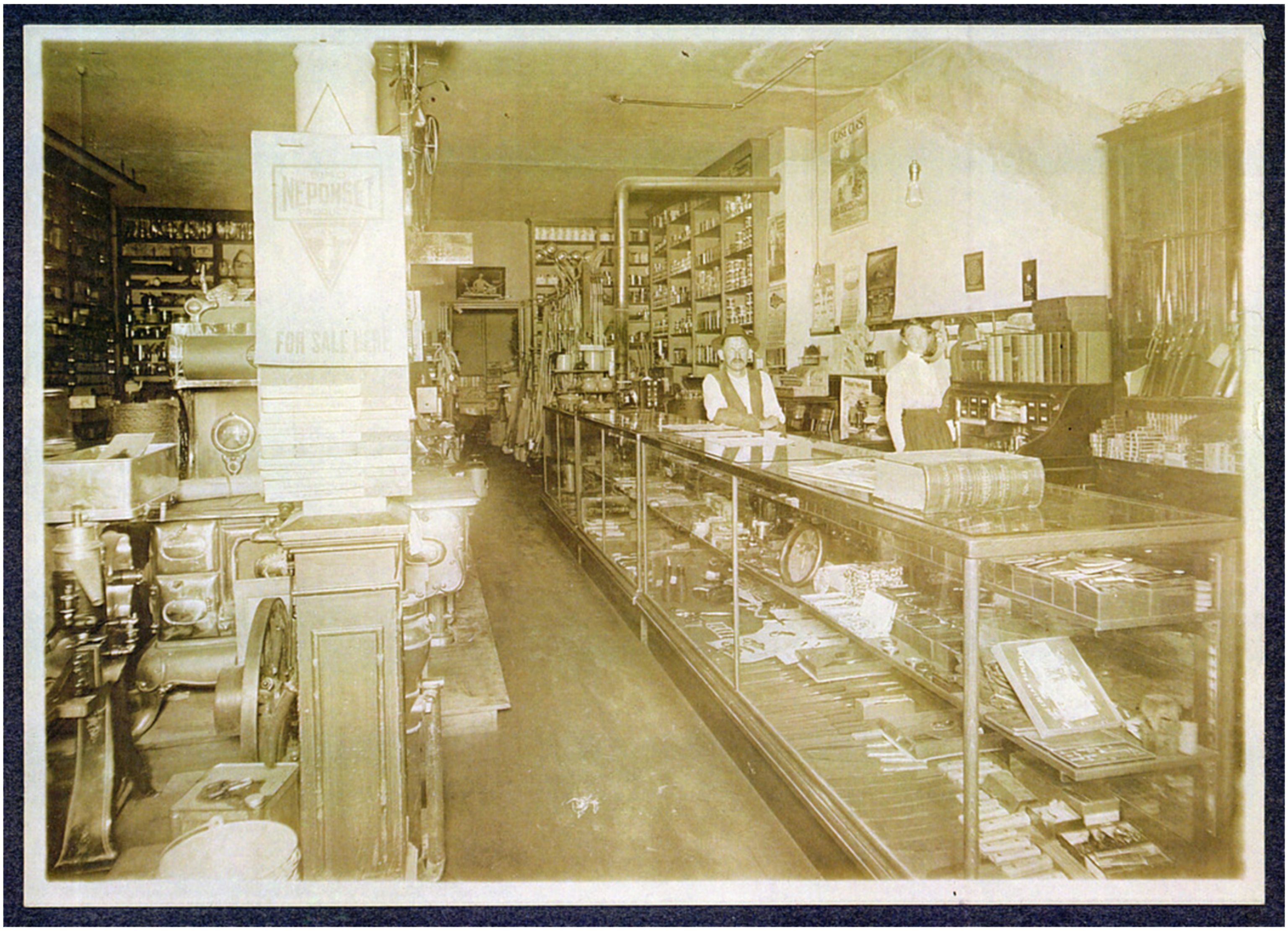
Wally Dunsmoor – January 11 2026

Maybe when the ED Youngs were considering whether to live in the Baker house or not. They built their house where the park is now at 2nd & Maple and the Vails took over the farm. I suppose that Vail decided to be a farmer and land developer and Young took over the store and the mill. In the 1860 census, ED Young lists his occupation as a Milliner. So, his first order of business was to grind flour from the locals grains with Bakers grist mill. The Millers portion of the flour was then sold in the Young-Vail store. A grist mill and a general store must have been the best combination. Then came the bank.

Young, Vail and Barnett purchased the mill and Bakers DLC. Young took the mill, Vail the farm and Barnett moved to Walla Walla to continue working with Baker. As Did Wm Green and his wife, our g-g-auntie, Mary Francis Young. A number of Oakland settlers followed Baker to Eastern Washington. Also,

Anyway, I sent this to show you how a township is ordered. 6 miles squared with each of 36 Sections being one square mile. Notice how the sections are numbered. Opposite to how Mr. Theil lettered his map. Was Theil dyslexic ?

This particular survey map contains several claims of settlers of 43', as well as some of Hudson's Bay employees. Near Lafayette in the Willamette Valley. Including the claim of the Millican family, whose daughter was the 3rd wife of Dorsey Baker.



The Smith Store

Email Notes – Rainy day...really rainy

Wally Dunsmoor – January 11 2026

You sent me this which I think is the Smith store. Did I see that their store was on the same lot that ED Young built his bank on later ?

They may have moved it to the lot behind the bank, on Oak Street. Now that lot is occupied by the, "Turkey Hall" cafe. I suppose the store either burned in one of the fires or….might be part of the Turkey Hall !! Another mystery…

Maybe I've got the wrong lot or store.

Wally

Jeffrey Hunt – January 11 2026

This is the hardware store I was thinking of.

I believe this photo came out of the Smith side of the family rather than the Dear side, even though it appears to be in Oakland.

What really grabs me is the man standing in the photo — he looks like he could plausibly be one of the children of John Smith and Esther Wells, possibly Lewis Smith. There's a strong family resemblance there. Of course, those looks can carry across generations too, so it could just as easily be someone else in the Smith line — maybe even James Smith himself. I honestly don't know.

But that's my main reaction: that guy looks familiar.

Bottom line: as far as I'm concerned, this is not an identified photo. I don't know exactly where it was taken. My best guess is that it shows the hardware store owned by James Smith, based on the other evidence we already have — but it's still only a guess.

I've got about half a dozen photos like this — really important images — and I currently have little or no reliable information about them. This is one of those.

Jeff

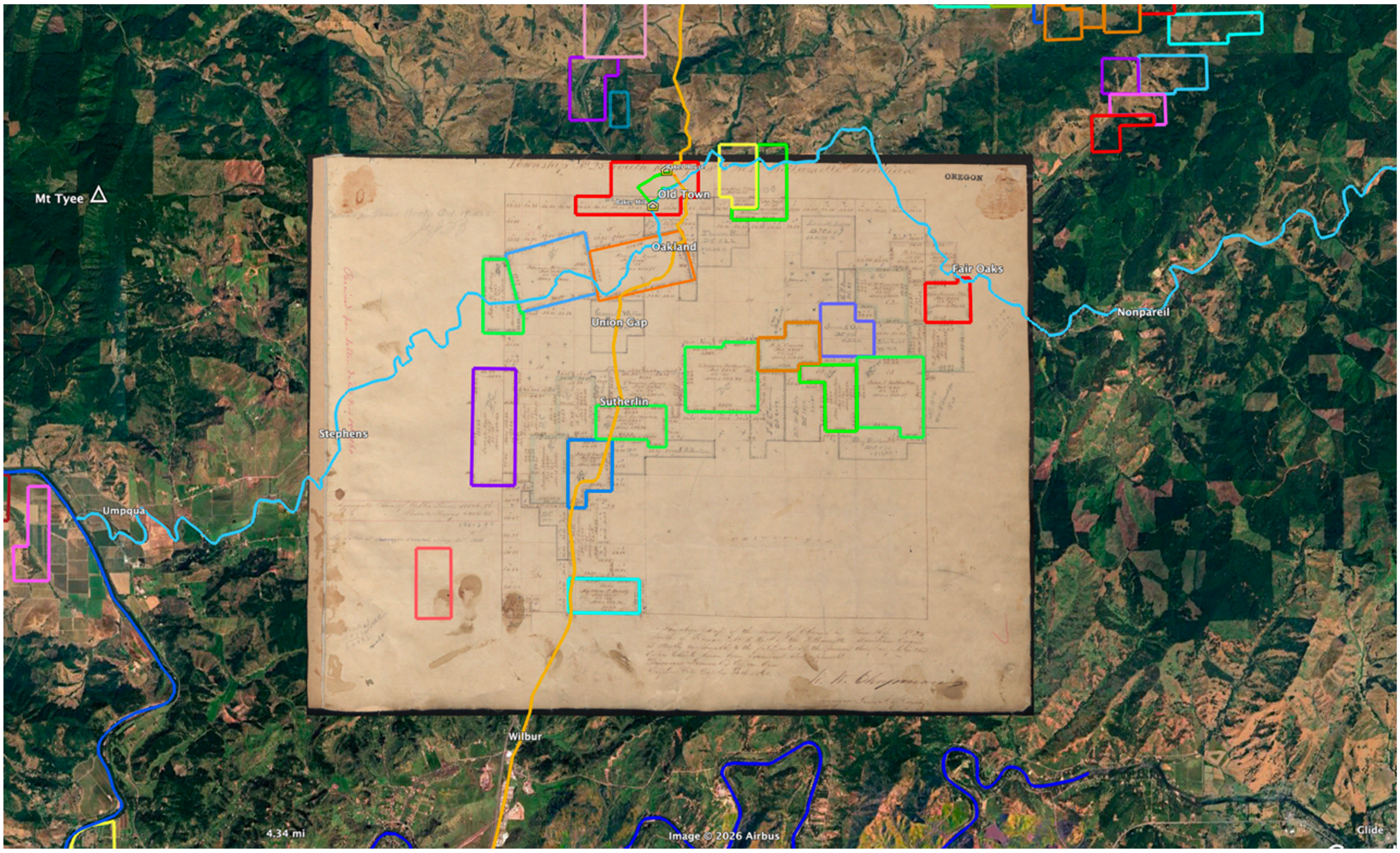
Wally Dunsmoor – January 11 2026

There may be a similar photo in the County museum collection. I'll re-consult the Chenoweth book to see if he mentions the Smith store, as I believe he did.

Lots of guns & ammo. Butcher knives and a wood cooking stove very much like one I cooked on many years ago.

I think electricity came in abt. 1904, so this must be a second generation if it's the Smith store.

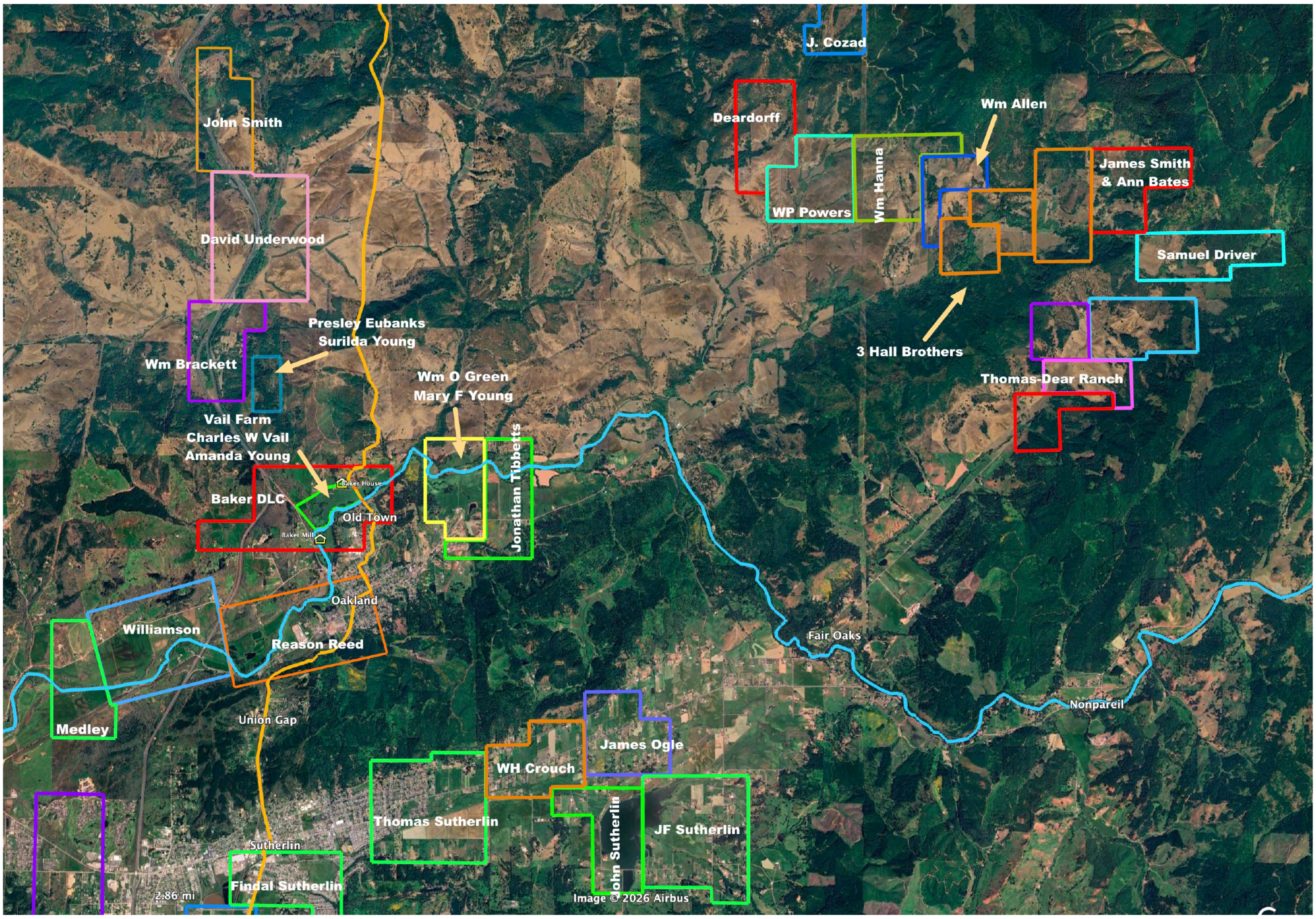
Wally


Mt Tyee
OREGON
Old Town
Oakland
Fair Oaks
Nonpareil
Union Gap
Sutherlin
Stephens
Umpqua
Wilbur
Glide
4.34 mi
Image © 2026 Airbus

1853 survey of Oakland DLC's
Email Notes

Wally Dunsmoor – January 11 2026

this is part of the process of laying out the DLC's. So, the map you found was probably drawn in 1854 or 55'. Prior to the two Young sisters marriages.


J. Cozad
Deardorff
Wm Allen
John Smith
Wm Hanna
James Smith
& Ann Bates
WP Powers
David Underwood
Samuel Driver
Presley Eubanks
Surilda Young
3 Hall Brothers
Wm Brackett
Wm O Green
Mary F Young
Thomas-Dear Ranch
Vail Farm
Charles W Vail
Amanda Young
Jonathan Tibbetts
Baker House
Baker DLC
Old Town
Baker Mill
Oakland
Fair Oaks
Williamson
Reason Reed
Nonpareil
Union Gap
Medley
James Ogle
WH Crouch
Thomas Sutherlin
JF Sutherlin
John Sutherlin
Sutherlin
Findal Sutherlin
2.86 mi
Image © 2026 Airbus

Final layout of Baker's DLC
Email Notes

Wally Dunsmoor – January 11 2026

Hi Jeff,

Comparing the final DLC's and location of the Vail farm. I suspect that the Theil layout may have had the intention of giving Charles & Amanda Vail the area of Old Town where the Young-Vail store was. They, instead, decided to take over the Baker house and make it the centre of their farm. After Surilda Young and Eubanks were married and staked their claim North of the Baker claim, Surilda's brother in law, Charles Vail, purchased the land between the Eubanks and the Brackett claim, as you found.

Interesting, if Theil was an actual trained surveyor, that the Section numbers are running not from top left to bottom, but from the bottom up. Not what a surveyor would draw…reversed Township layout.

I don't mean to rain on this find, it's really beautiful, just it's an odd survey. This drawing must have been in the possession of Charles and Amanda before they bought the farm. Our oldest Young-Vail document ?

Wally

Mildred Kanipe abouty 1960

Baimbridge-Kanipe Farmstead Historic District

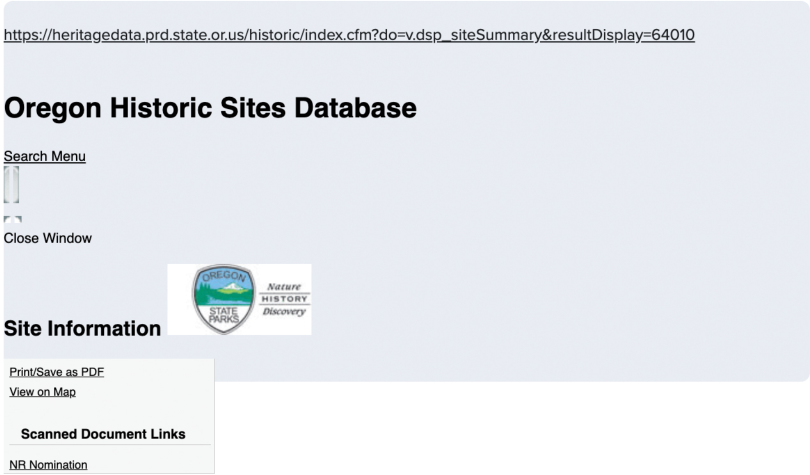
Email Notes

Wally Dunsmoor
January 10 2026

Hi,

Looking over some places I've been to, long ago. I was introduced to Mildred Kanipe about 1960 by my "great-uncle" Smith who I believe was her friend with benefits. She left 1,000 acres for a park where she's buried. This is the English Settlement area.

https://heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/index.cfm?do=v.dsp_siteSummary&resultDisplay=64010



https://heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/index.cfm?do=v.dsp_siteSummary&resultDisplay=64010

Oregon Historic Sites Database

Site Information

Search Menu
Close Window
OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY Discovery
Print/Save as PDF
View on Map
Scanned Document Links
NR Nomination

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address:	16513 Elkhead Rd Oakland vcty, Douglas County	**historic name:**	Baimbridge-Kanipe Farmstead Historic District
		current/other names:	Joseph Deardorff Donation Land Claim, Winslow Powers Ranch, Thomas & Emily Baimbridge Ranch, Kanipe Ranch
assoc addresses:		**block/lot/tax lot:**	
location descr:		**twnshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:**	24S 4W 18

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type:	District	**height (stories):**		**total elig resources:**	6	**total inelig resources:**	4
elig evaluation:	eligible/significant			**NR Status:**	Individually Listed		
prim constr date:	c.1865	**second date:**		**date indiv listed:**	01/29/2008		

primary orig use:	Single Dwelling	**orig use comments:**	
second orig use:	Agric. Storage		
primary style:	Foursquare (Type)	**prim style comments:**	
secondary style:		**sec style comments:**	
primary siding:	Wood:Other/Undefined	**siding comments:**	
secondary siding:			
plan type:		**architect:**	
		builder:	

comments/notes:

GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

Survey/Grouping Included In:	**Type of Grouping**	**Date Listed**	**Date Compiled**
Baimbridge-Kanipe Farmstead Historic District	Listed Historic District	01/29/2008	2007

SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed:	01/29/2008	**106 Project(s):**	None
ILS survey date:		**Special Assess Project(s):**	None
RLS survey date:		**Federal Tax Project(s):**	None
Gen file date:	02/28/2007		

ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)

INTRODUCTION The Baimbridge-Kanipe Farmstead is located at 16513 Elkhead Road, Oakland, Douglas County, Oregon, approximately eight miles northeast of the town of Oakland, and twenty miles north of the county seat of Roseburg. The farmstead is situated in an area of large farms called English Settlement, so named for the number of English emigrants to the area. The almost 1,100 acre farm was left to Douglas County by its last and longtime owner, Mildred Knipe, on her death in 1983, on the stipulation that it be used as a public park; the farm is now known as the Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park. The nominated area consists of 18.61 acres (tax lots 200 and 500) and contains eight (8) contributing resources, including the house (circa 1865), two barns (pre-1900), a sheep shearing shed (circa 1935), a small buggy shed (pre-1900; repairs 1980s), an equipment shed (pre-1900), livestock chute (post-1930) and the historic orchard (no date). The nominated area includes all of these contributing resources and some of the farm fields surrounding the group. There are seven (7) non-contributing resources, including a manufactured home (caretaker’s residence) and wood shed (1987), the paved parking lot (1980s), new public restroom facilities (1988), a newer wooden footbridge, and Mildred Kanipe’s grave (1983). A railroad flatcar auto bridge was installed in 2007. The period of significance for the group is circa 1865-1957, which corresponds to the approximate construction date of the house through the end of the fifty-year age guideline for listing of properties on the National Register. The farm is eligible for listing in the National Register under criterion A for association with the settlement and agricultural development of the Oakland area. SETTING The Baimbridge-Kanipe Farmstead is located in northern Douglas County in a region of rolling hills traversed by several streams that drain into the Umpqua River. Several miles northeast of the community of Oakland, this area was historically used as farmland, and it continues to function as an agricultural community. In 1884, A.G. Walling described the English Settlement area as A tract of land six miles long by two wide [that] lies eight miles north of Oakland, and is called English Settlement because of the nationality of its first occupants. Three creeks, Oldham, Bachelor and Pollack, traverse it, the land along the streams being level, while that between is rolling prairie. The best of grain, fruit and vegetables are produced, and the valley is stocked with fine breeds of cattle, horses, sheep, and swine. Most of the farms remain in pasture or hay fields, grazing cattle and/or sheep. The Baimbridge-Kanipe Farmstead buildings are situated on the west side of Elkhead Road, in a north-south draw just east of an unnamed tributary to Bachelor Creek. The creek, until recent years, flowed year round and teemed with fish, mainly cutthroat trout. The creek now runs dry during the summer months after the headwaters were logged. Trees line the creek, and from the farm group the land opens into grass fields to the south. The buildings of the multi-unit farm complex arranged in a linear fashion along the creek, utilizing the available level space in the flood plain; the outbuildings string out to the north and east from the house. The current paved drive off of Elkhead Road, winding down between the horse barn and carriage house follows the original dirt or gravel lane to the house; the lane continues beyond the current parking lot, across the creek to the land beyond. The landscape in the immediate vicinity of the farm group consists of expanses of grass and trees, with little formal landscaping. Foundation plantings around the house include some annual and perennial plants, roses and other ornamental plants around the historic house and the caretaker’s residence. Of particular note are five mature cedar trees planted around the farmhouse: two pairs located off the southeast and southwest corners of the building at ten-foot intervals, and another by the porch at the east elevation. Mildred Kanipe’s grave is located south of the house and is surrounded by a picket fence. Review of aerial photographs from 1939 through 1982 indicate that the landscape of the nominated area remained virtually unchanged during that period. Circulation and land-use patterns, vegetation and building arrangements established by previous generations remained intact throughout Mildred Kanipe’s ownership of the farm. (Figures 1 – 4) Intrusions on the historic setting are primarily associated with the conversion of the site from working farm to public county park. The placement of the Caretaker’s residence between the house and the horse barn encroaches on the historic landscape visually and physically. The grading and paving of the historic lane and the creation of a paved parking lot encircling a public restroom facility intrudes on the visual and physical integrity of the open meadow immediately outside the front door of the house. Other small changes on the landscape – addition of picnic tables, new flat span foot- and auto-bridges, and an irrigation pond located outside of the nominated area - do not negatively impact the physical or historic integrity of the setting, feeling or design of the farm group. HOUSE DESCRIPTION House Exterior The Baimbridge-Kanipe house is a good example of the type of vernacular buildings that were constructed during the settlement era in rural Oregon. The one-and-a-half story house is irregular in plan and sits on a stone pier and hewn beam and log foundation. The building was constructed in phases with a hewn frame and vertical and horizontal plank walls. The main volume of the house measures approximately 25 foot by 44 foot, and appears to have been the first phase of construction. This was followed by the smaller kitchen addition to the north. (Photos 2 and 4) Exact dates of construction for the house, kitchen addition and woodshed have not been definitively established, but appear to fall in the range of circa 1865-1880. (Photos 18 and 19) The house displays a variety of sidings, including vertical board and batten (west elevation and northernmost addition), horizontal droplap siding (south and east elevations) and flush horizontal boards (east side kitchen wall and east addition). The original siding appears to have been board-and-batten (as seen on the east elevation), given the condition of the siding and the depth of the window trim reveal. (Photo 1 through 5) At some point the battens on the south and east elevations were removed and a secondary layer of horizontal drop-lap was applied. Fenestration is irregular, and the primary window type is six-over-six double hung wood sash with simple flat board surrounds. There are three exterior doors – two on the front porch and one from the kitchen - and a fourth that now opens onto an unfinished addition on the east elevation. (See floorplan) The side-gable roof has approximately 18 inch eaves with exposed rafters and purlins, and is covered in corrugated sheet metal roofing over older wood shingles and wide waney-edge skip-sheathing. The house has one fireplace and three flues. Decorative features include a wide frieze board on all elevations of the original portion of the house and simple flat board door and window surrounds. Stylistic categorization of the house is difficult; from the exterior it exhibits no clear leaning toward either the Classical Revival or the Gothic Revival styles that were sometimes employed during the early years of Oregon settlement. The front, or east elevation of the house is marked by a recessed corner porch supported by a newer four-by-four post which replaces the original hewn post. (Photo 3) A section of the smooth-sawn porch ceiling boards is patched, which may indicate the location of a former stair or ladder providing access to the attic space. Within the porch are contained two entrance doors - both with paired vertical recessed panels - one opening into the living room and the other into the dining room, which likely served as the kitchen prior to the construction of the kitchen addition. The kitchen door is a four-panel wood door that has been altered to accommodate a half-light. Windows are six-over-six double hung wood sash, many with original or very early glass. Siding consists of horizontal drop-lap (main house), horizontal board (kitchen) and newer board-and-batten (northernmost addition). The north elevation is dominated by the kitchen, a storage room addition to the north of the kitchen, and an open wood shed; according to family recollections, the storage room and woodshed were constructed prior to 1920. Due to the setback of the kitchen section, a portion of the gable end of the original house is visible, displaying the wide frieze/bargeboard and a partially obstructed six-over-six window. Siding is secondary drop-lap. The west elevation has board-and-batten siding; windows are six-over-six double hung wood sash, with a smaller fixed four-pane window in the pantry, adjacent to the kitchen. Near the center of this elevation is a 1960s addition that was reportedly to be made into a bathroom, but was never completed (the house currently has no indoor bathroom facility). The addition is set on a pier block foundation, clad in horizontal board siding and has no windows. The south elevation displays the gable roof with wide frieze/bargeboard detail. Siding is secondary horizontal drop-lap, and there is a six-over-six double hung window in the living room and the attic. The fireplace box, constructed of stone and repaired with red brick, is exposed on this elevation, though the red brick chimney stack itself is on the interior, piercing the roof just east of the ridge. House Interior The older portion of the house consists of three rooms divided by single-wall construction: a living room with fireplace, a small bedroom to the west, and a dining room to the north. The dining room likely served as the kitchen prior to the construction of the kitchen addition. The kitchen addition, attached to the north wall of the main house, consists of one room from which there is access to the root cellar (under the main house) and attic sleeping rooms. There is a small pantry on the north wall of the kitchen. The woodshed is attached to the north end of the kitchen, with access from the exterior of the building. There are exterior doors from the living room, dining room and kitchen. (Figures 5 and 6) The living room has a secondary narrow-width fir floor that is severely buckled due to foundation settling. Original flooring was probably wider. The walls are hewn frame clad on the interior with varying width (approximately 12 to 20 inches) rough sash-sawn boards set vertically, and covered with muslin and wallpaper. There are no baseboards. Window and door surrounds are simple flat boards with no molding. On the center of the south wall is a fireplace flanked by a closet and cupboard on one side, and a six-over-six window on the other. (Photo 6) The fireplace and storage design and detailing is typical of those found in settlement-era houses of the 1840s through about 1865, which often displayed Classical Revival stylistic tendencies. The hearth, firebox walls and firebox lintel are stone, and the back of the firebox is brick. The wood surround and mantel display simple but elegant pilaster and molding designs reminiscient of those found in builder’s guides of the period. The wall above the fireplace is finished with vertical painted wood board-and-batten paneling – probably a later application - which was subsequently covered with wallpaper. The ceilings are smooth-sawn, tightly fitted painted boards that were also later covered with wallpaper. A small bedroom to the west of the living room is similarly finished. The partition wall separating the living room from this bedroom is about one inch thick. The dining room has a narrow-width fir floor, laid perpendicularly to that in the living room. Walls are finished in either varying width smooth-sawn painted vertical boards or vertical board-and-batten paneling. The ceiling consists of smooth-sawn, tightly fitted painted boards. In the southeast corner is a paint shadow indicating the former location of a large cabinet, possibly the one that is now in the kitchen. On the west wall is a six-over-one window and a raised panel door with two vertical panels. Based on the patch pattern around the window, it appears that this was original the location of an exterior door. The doorway into the kitchen is framed with a slightly peaked door head, and includes a four-panel door with a wide lock rail. To the north of the dining room is the kitchen addition. (Photo 7 and 8) The hewn-frame is covered with horizontal planks of regular dimensions, or horizontal board-and-batten paneling, either painted or displaying remnants of wallpaper or linoleum. The kitchen floor displays wider plank fir floors, and very wide base- or mop-boards. The ceiling is clad in painted drop-lap siding similar to the secondary siding on the exterior of the building. A flue indicates the former location of the stove on the west wall. A tall wood cabinet, which may have originally been in the dining room, is now in the kitchen, and may be original to the house. A circa 1960s counter, sink with running water, cabinets and built-in ironing board are the newest additions to the kitchen. The wood doors have four recessed panels and rimlocks (or shadow lines of rimlocks) and windows are six-over-six double hung. Surrounds are flat wood boards with either flat or slightly peaked door and window heads. Access to the root cellar and the attic are provided through the kitchen, which also has an exterior door to the east and a doorway into the pantry on the north. Wooden stairs provide access down to the root cellar, which is constructed of dirt only, and is partially collapsed. The attic is reached via a narrow wooden staircase, which leads to a small landing. The partially blocked window on the north wall of the original house is visible from the staircase. Several steps up from the landing is the larger attic sleeping area in the attic of the original house, which is lit by a six-over-six window in the south wall. (Photo 9) The smaller area over the kitchen was originally lit by the window in the south gable end, which was later covered by the woodshed addition. The upstairs is completely unfinished. The hand-hewn plates with mortis-and-tenon joinery held with large wooden pegs are visible. The roof structure consists of a combination of poles and rough-sawn rafters covered with waney-edge wide-board skip-sheathing. Alterations The house retains a high degree of historical integrity, in spite of its poor physical condition. Exterior alterations to the original house include the addition of the kitchen, the north woodshed addition, addition of an exterior stove chimney in the living room (unknown date), a rear unfinished addition (unknown date), corrugated metal roofing (1980s), and application of secondary droplap siding (unknown date). Interior alterations include application of board-and-batten paneling (post-1878), installation of electricity (date unknown), a kitchen counter and sink with running water (c. 1960), and a built-in ironing board (c. 1960). None of these changes significantly affect the building’s historic integrity. CONTRIBUTING FARM BUILDINGS Dates for most of the outbuildings are elusive, and many are based on materials and structural analysis of each building. All of the subject buildings appear on aerial photographs in 1939, the earliest air photos available for this area. Buggy Shed The gable roofed buggy shed measures 12 foot by 20 foot with two 4-foot wagon doors in each gable end for “drive through” ease of parking. (Photo 10 and 20) This building was the subject of a major renovation by the Douglas County Park department in 2001. Work included rebuilding the entire structural system and then re-installing the historic board and batten siding and doors on the new frame. The roof rafters metal roof are also new. These changes have not sufficiently compromised the building’s integrity to warrant categorization as a non-contributing resource. Individually, the building retains integrity of location, setting, association, feeling, design and much of the original material. Perhaps more importantly the buggy shed contributes to the overall sense of completeness of the farm group as a whole, and its removal or a less sensitive rehabilitation would negatively impact the physical and historic integrity of the farmstead. Historic photos show that the building’s orientation was changed from an east-west orientation to a north-south orientation at an unknown time. (Photo 20) Horse Barn The Horse Barn is the largest building in this grouping. It has a medium-pitched asymmetrical gable roof oriented north-south, and measures 76 feet by 54 feet. (Photos 11, 12, and historic photo 21, Figures 7 and 10) Built on stone foundation piers, the hand-hewn frame has mortise-and-tenon joinery with wood pegs. It appears to have been constructed as a transverse plan with six bays, the two central bays being slightly narrower; the floor consists of heavy wood planks. The northern and southern ends of the barn interior contain several stalls with narrow hay lofts above. The central section, which may have originally been used as a threshing floor, now combines open space with grain/feed binds, and is covered with a hay loft. Dirt-floored sheds run longitudinally along the east and west sides of the barn. The building is clad in wide1 inch by 8 inch circular-sawn planks set vertically. The barn contains a mixture of wooden pegs, hand wrought nails, square machine made and wire nails. There is one remaining wrought gate hinge remaining on one of the posts. The construction date of the barn is unclear. The interior framing configuration and a circa 1930 historic photograph showing the barn with a lower roof pitch both suggest a construction date prior to 1900, possibly as early as the 1860s. (Photo 21 and Figure 10) Alterations to the barn include complete replacement of the roof, including rafters. Based on analysis of aerial photographs and the building itself, it appears that the east side shed was added sometime between 1939 and the mid-1950s; it is likely that the roof pitch was also changed at this time. Throughout the building various deteriorated hewn frame members have been replaced or have newer members married to them. The original floor plan configuration is difficult to discern due to changes made over time to accommodate a diversity of uses. The barn is currently being used as a shop and storage by the property caretaker; the south end stalls are being developed as a ranch museum display. The changes to the horse barn occurred within the historic period, and reflect continued but changing uses on the farm. These alterations do not detract from the significance of the barn or from the overall integrity of the farm group. Sheep Shearing Shed The Sheep Shearing Shed was built circa 1935 by Romie Howard (Mildred Kanipe’s brother-in-law), and is located approximately 25 to 30 feet west of the horse barn. (Photo 13) The rectangular building measures 20 foot by 40 foot and was used for handling sheep when they were brought in for shearing. The shed sits on a wood post foundation, has sawn lumber framing and a gable roof which is covered with corrugated metal sheets. The exterior walls are clad in 12 inch rough-sawn vertical boards, with 24 to 36 inch opened screened section of the building in the upper section of the walls. There are sliding doors on the north and south ends of the building to facilitate the movement of animals through the building. The interior space has wood floors, and is divided into pens and work areas by low wood partitions. Local tradition holds that the building may also have been used as a chicken house at some time in its history. Dairy Barn The large Dairy Barn is the northernmost building in the farm group. The construction date is unknown, but is presumed to be pre-1900. The barn measures approximately 55 feet long by 49 feet wide. It has a medium double-pitch gable roof oriented east-west, with a hay hood on the east gable end; the north and south sidewall eaves are very low to the ground. (Photos 14, 15, historic photo 22, and Figure 8) The building is framed with a combination of rough hewn-log and pole framing, with some more finished hand-hewn elements and sits on a field stone foundation. Log post supports are visible on the exterior of the north elevation. The sash-sawn 1inch by 8 inch board siding is set vertically on the gable ends and the north elevation, and 12 inch boards are applied over vertical boards on the south elevation. The barn has a longitudinal plan with a central dirt floor wagon drive flanked by a row of stalls with stanchions and deteriorated wood floors on one side, and stanchions, feed bins and storage space on the other. The framing of the barn is very deteriorated, and many of the original structural components appear to be missing, as evidenced by notches and mortises with no corresponding pieces attached. The roof structure is newer, with sawn rafters and skip-sheathing covered with corrugated metal. Mildred Kanipe ran a dairy from about 1941-1948, and circa 1940 she built a 14’ by 20’ addition on the southwest corner of the barn for use as a milk room. This small addition has a post and stone pier foundation with a poured concrete floor. It is framed with dimensional lumber and has aluminum panels applied to the interior of the framing for ease of cleaning. The upper 12 to 24 inchs of the wall is screened for ventilation. Access to and from the barn is provided through a door at the end of the south aisle of the barn. Equipment in the milk room includes a chiller, metal sinks, a water heater and storage racks. As with the horse barn, this building was altered during the historic period, and these changes also reflect evolving activities and needs on the farm. The changes do not detract from the significance of the individual building or negatively affect the overall integrity of the farmstead. Equipment Shed The Equipment Shed is located approximately 200 yards south of the house, away from the primary grouping. The shed measures approximately 60 feet long and 25 feet wide. The building is rectangular in plan, with structural framing consisting of rough hewn vertical posts, poles and dimensional lumber; the building has a gable roof. (Photo 16) The north and west walls are open, and the south and east walls are clad in random-width, circular-sawn vertical boards. The building currently houses an interpretive display of horse-drawn equipment that was used on the farm, and there is an associated fenced area to the north of the building that displays two farm machines. The date of construction of the equipment shed is not currently known, but it does appear on 1939 aerial photographs. Orchard The remnants of the historic orchard are located south and west of the farm buildings. (Photo 17) The orchard consists of a number of fruit trees arranged in rows aligned on a north-south axis. As planned and planted the orchard had approximately eighty-two trees, including apples, peaches, prunes and nut trees and spread on both sides of the creek. Although a few trees remain on the west side of the creek, the plan of the orchard is most evident on the east side where several rows are still evident. Approximately 20 trees are extant; the age of the trees is not currently known. However, the orchard does appear in fragmented form on both sides of the creek in aerial photographs from 1939. By the 1950s some newer infill trees on the east side of the creek are clearly visible in air photos, and these – both older and infill - remain in place today. Lost and Non-contributing Resources At least one outbuilding has been lost due to deterioration. The Rabbit Shed was located north of the Sheep Shed, and the outline of its location is still visible. An outbuilding (perhaps an outhouse) is visible near the house in historic photographs, but is now gone. All historic wooden fencing around the house and outbuildings has also been removed. Non-contributing features on the property are largely related to the County's ownership and operation of the property as a public park. These resources include the caretaker's house and pump house, the parking lot, the public restroom facility, a large irrigation pond, and two bridges across the creek. FUTURE PLANS The Douglas County Parks Department in cooperation with the Friends of Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park Inc. are currently assessing the needs of the property in order to take steps to stabilize the buildings. The intention is to further develop the park as an outdoor museum. Currently, interpretive panel displays are placed around the park and in several building describing the history of the property, and the equipment shed houses a collection of historic horse-drawn farm implements.

HISTORY

(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)

INTRODUCTION The Baimbridge-Kanipe Farmstead is locally significant under National Register criterion A for its association with the settlement and agricultural development of Douglas County. With initial development starting in the 1850s, the farm was in continuous active agricultural use until 1983 when it was deeded to Douglas County for use as a public park by the last owner, Mildred Kanipe. The period of significance for the farm group is circa 1865-1957, which corresponds to the probable construction date of the current house to the fifty year mark, and includes all of the historic resources in the farm group. These resources include the house, horse barn, dairy barn, sheep shearing shed, carriage house, implement shed, livestock chute, historic orchard and circulation patterns. These features collectively represent a timeline of the history and variety of agricultural activity on the site over a period of over one-hundred years. The Baimbridge-Kanipe Farmstead retains a high degree of integrity of location, materials, design, feeling and association as evaluated within its defined period of significance. The site's integrity of setting is largely intact, though it has been compromised by the siting of a manufactured home between the house and the horse barn, and by nearby park improvements including construction of restroom facilities and the creation of a circular paved drive and parking lot. Within the period of significance, integrity of workmanship is largely intact; many of the outbuildings were altered over time (within the period of significance) as needed to allow for continued farm uses. Many of the buildings have been re-roofed with metal roofing. (See Figures 1-4) The house is virtually intact, and remained without electricity or running water until the 1960s. The horse barn roof was altered sometime after 1930 to its current configuration, but does not appear to have been altered since. The dairy barn was most recently altered circa 1940, and has not sustained any obvious alterations since. Other buildings or structures have been updated and repaired as necessary and as expected for working farm buildings. Historic landscape features include the orchard and circulation features (roads). The historic fencing and the rabbit hutch seen in historic photographs have been removed. EARLY DOUGLAS COUNTY HISTORY The Umpqua/Douglas County region was initially explored by members of the Northwest Company an others in the early 1800s, and McKay's Fort is generally accepted as having been the first non-native structure built in the region. The Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) later established Fort Umpqua along the Umpqua River in 1836, and maintained this post as a trade center until the early 1850s, in spite of the fact that the British had ceded their interests in the region in the mid-1840s. American settlement of the area now known as Douglas County began in the 1840s, encouraged by the Organic Act (1843) and the Donation Land Claim Act (1850), which initially granted up to 640 acres of land for a husband and wife who lived on and worked their claim for four years. Early settlement buildings throughout western Oregon included an initial log cabin, constructed quickly to provide shelter, usually followed by a barn, and later a hewn log or perhaps a sawn-lumber house. The construction of the barn often preceded that of the permanent frame house. In 1846 the Oregon-California Trail, a portion of which was also known as the Applegate Trail, was established by Levi Scott, Lindsay and Jesse Applegate and others. The wagon road extended from southern Oregon north through the Willamette Valley, and was inspired by the need for a route less treacherous than the Columbia River or the Barlow Road. With improved access to the region, settlement in Douglas County (initially known as Umpqua County) began in earnest. While some emigrants came directly to the Umpqua Valley area, many made initial claims in the Willamette Valley before selling and re-moving south into the northern portion of the county. The low-lands of the Willamette Valley were settled first, with later settlers forced to take up claims in the foothills or adjacent smaller valleys. Small communities grew around milling operations or commercial centers which served the needs of the new settlers. Enclaves of extended families, religious, or ethnic groups often gravitated in to neighborhood groupings. "More than half of Oregon's pioneers were accompanied by relatives or former neighbors and examples of clan migrations are numerous." Although not incorporated until decades later, communities such as Oakland, Wilbur, Winchester, and Drain formed as early as the 1840s, followed by Sutherlin, Yoncalla, Myrtle Creek, and Roseburg in the 1850s. The offer of "free" land and the discovery of gold led to a population surge, and Umpqua County was organized January 24, 1851. "Douglas county, named after Stephen A. Douglas, was created January 7, 1852 out of that part of Umpqua county which lay east of the Coast Range. In 1864 the remainder of Umpqua county was joined to Douglas, and Umpqua ceased to be. The county of Douglas as we know it today was established in 1915 after several debates and boundary changes. As the available land diminished, the Donation Land Claim Act was amended several times, and was eventually replaced by the Homestead Act of 1862 that gave settlers up to 160 acres of land. Federal subsidy of railroad companies through the 1866 Oregon and California Railroad Land Grant and other initiatives continued to encourage the establishment of prosperous farming communities throughout the County. OAKLAND AND ENGLISH SETTLEMENT AREA The community of Oakland is located in northern Douglas County about 20 miles north of Roseburg, along old Highway 99. Prior to the arrival of the early settlers, the area was occupied by the southernmost band of the Kalapuya Indians. Diseases brought by European and American explorers in the late-eighteenth and early- nineteenth centuries, and later skirmishes between the natives and the first settlers and trappers had already greatly reduced the native population by the 1850s. In 1855, treaties were negotiated with the remaining Kalapuya villages giving the land to the United States government. The Kalapuya were forcibly moved to the Grand Ronde reservation in Western Polk and Yamhill Counties in 1856. A few early and short-lived residences in the Oakland area appeared in the 1840s, but more permanent settlers came in the early 1850s. One of the first was Dr. Dorsey S. Baker, who established a grist mill along Calapooya Creek in 1851. Reason Reed and L.H. Crow were other early land claimants in the vicinity. Soon a hotel, stores and a school were built. "Development of the town continued until 1872 when the Oregon and California Railroad bypassed the site. Aware of the potentials of drawing merchants and investors to a location on the rail route, A.F. Brown purchased several different land parcels, including the Donation Claims of L.H. Crow and Reason Reed, to lay out a 'new' Oakland." Many of the original buildings of old Oakland were relocated to the new town site, and were joined by new buildings housing depots, warehouses, livery stables and numerous other business and industrial enterprises. As a result of this strategic move, Oakland developed into an important commercial shipping center for the rich farmlands that surrounded it. A wilderness settlement in the 1850s...Oakland grew slowly as a market and supply center for the area's farmers and ranchers. With its relocation in 1871-1872, planned and promoted by Alonzo Brown (whose home remains), more rapid growth occurred. By the time Oakland was incorporated as a city in 1878, several passenger trains stopped there each day... With new markets open to them, farmers diversified their plantings to such cash crops as barley and hops, and sheep, cattle, turkeys and other livestock were shipped to distant regions on Oakland's new avenue of trade. As a railroad town Oakland became, in the words of a turn-of-the-century reporter, a 'civilized community.' It served the varied needs of a broad area, providing goods from furniture to fencing, and services from those of the church to those 'of the evening.' Oakland was the terminus of the railroad for six months, and then it was put through to Roseburg in 1872, and finally completed on to the California border in 1887. By the 1880s Oakland was a prominent community in northern Douglas County, and continued to grow economically and agriculturally. Farmers " '...came from all around to Oakland to get their mail and do some trading. They nearly always had eggs and butter to trade for groceries. They didn't need much, as they had gardens, dairy products and fruit, and they took their grain to the grist mill to have the wheat made into flour and graham...' " A large portion of the area's wealth came from sheep farming, and in "...1880 Douglas county shipped a million pounds of wool...and sold 27,000 head of sheep...." The town of Oakland was heavily damaged by a fire in 1899, an event that caused a stall in the community's development. Agricultural production did not seem to diminish, however. By 1907 the town served as a major distribution point for agricultural produce between Portland and San Francisco. In that year 175 carloads of livestock were shipped, with turkeys being one of the area's major crops. Other products such as grains, dried fruits, wool, venison and salmon were also shipped from Oakland. By the 1930s Oakland was known for its turkey exports, and through the 1950s lumber was a thriving industry. Ranching, particularly sheep ranching, was and continues to be a major factor in the local economy. The English Settlement area is located several miles north and east of Oakland. It is not known when this name began to be attached to the region, but the English Settlement is named and described in Walling's 1884 History of Southern Oregon as "...a tract of land six miles long by two wide [that] lies eight miles north of Oakland, and is called English Settlement because of the nationality of its first occupants." Early settlers – of English extraction and others - included Sid Oldham, the Halls, Winslow Powers, and William Hanna, soon followed by the Deardorffs, James Smith, Elizabeth Johnson and others. Most arrivals to this area settled their claims between 1853 and 1854. The prime soils and rolling hills of the English Settlement area made it excellent farm and ranch land. Agricultural pursuits in the 1850s consisted of subsistence farming for the family's consumption, and small-scale wheat production. Stock raising soon followed as did crops (vegetable and grain) for sale at market. Sheep raising was popular and successful early on.

Sheep were introduced in the Oregon Territory by the Hudson’s Bay Company; starting in the mid-1840s settlers were also importing and began successfully breeding sheep in western Oregon. By the arrival of the railroad in the 1870s the area’s agricultural production potential had been clearly established. Although the English Settlement community never grew to a town, the residents did maintain their own continuously operating school district, from the 1860s until 1934. AGRICULTURE IN NORTHERN DOUGLAS COUNTY While settlement agriculture in Oregon began with the arrival of Europeans and European-Americans in the 1830s, these activities were largely limited to the Willamette Valley, and were often short-lived due to the hardships of isolated living. Once the “problem” of land ownership in the Oregon Territory was resolved politically, settlement of the fledgling state began in earnest. The richness of the alluvial soils of the Willamette, Umpqua and Rogue Rivers meant that early agricultural activity was primarily focused in the Willamette Valley and the Umpqua and Rogue Valleys of southwestern Oregon. Initially engaging in subsistence farming for survival, early settlers relied heavily on hunting and the foraging of wild food for much of their early sustenance. Cereal crops such as wheat, barley, oats and corn provided grain for flour, feed for livestock and currency for the purchase of additional seed or supplies. Most harvesting in the mid-ninteenth century was done by hand labor; cutting, binding, threshing (or “thrashing”) and fanning were all often accomplished without the use of machinery. Threshing floors were created either outside by pounding a selected piece of ground smooth and hard, or under cover by laying heavy planking in a section of the barn. Barns were among the earliest buildings to appear on the agrarian landscape. Although stock animals usually free-ranged, the use of the barn for feed, equipment storage and sometime-shelter for stock was critical to the survival and success of the emigrant families. Early barns served these multiple purposes until more specialized buildings such as equipment sheds, hay barns, chicken, sheep and dairy barns, fruit dryers and other building types were added to the farmstead. For the first years settlers were focused on establishing homes and communities on the frontier, more concerned with survival than profit. The discovery of gold in California (and later in Oregon and regions northeast) created a market for agricultural goods (as well as lumber), and helped transform this subsistence agriculture into one of production for export. As grist- and sawmills appeared and transportation routes were established, much-needed supplies were shipped to the California mines. This in turn encouraged greater diversification in agricultural pursuits. The Hudson’s Bay Company had brought livestock to Fort Umpqua in the 1830s, and subsequent settlers increased both sheep and cattle herds, making stock raising a dominant undertaking in Douglas County. Again, mines both to the south and north provided ready markets for sheep, wool and cattle exports. Dairying as an industry first became lucrative in the northwestern Oregon counties, but individual farms commonly had dairy cows which provided products for family consumption and local sale of milk, cheese and butter. “Horse raising was tied to the production of farm work, oxen were favored into the 1850s, with draft horses, such as Clydesdales and Percherons more useful to pull the field machinery of the later periods.” Honey bees appeared in Oregon in 1850s. Seth Luelling was the first to successfully import grafted fruit trees to Oregon in 1847, and soon fruit was being grown in the Willamette, Umpqua and Rogue River valleys and sold in both local and California markets. Prunes and apples were dominant orchard crops in the region, and by 1919 prunes were “...the largest industry in the county.” Agricultural production in northern Douglas County was abundant enough by 1860 to hold the first annual Umpqua Valley Agricultural Society meeting in Oakland that November. Toward the end of the initial phase of settlement, the population increases and transportation improvements contributed to agricultural growth. “Connection by rail to the national marketplace established a consistent demand for Oregon products. In the counties west of the Cascades, the widely dispersed family farm was being encroached upon by commercial centers, forcing the intensification of farm lands for specialized crops.” In 1867 Alonzo Brown purchased a Marsh Harvester... The machine was primarily a horse-drawn mower, which cut the grain stacks, leaving the grain head and short stock for hand-binding... The equipment imported by Alonzo Brown ... heralded the dawning of a new era in Douglas County farming. In the 1870’s farmers, in order to compete, rushed to purchase laborsaving devices. The advent of this machinery and the use of the steam-powered tractors in the 1870’s and the 1880’s signalled that commercial farming had commenced in Douglas County. The prospect for its success seemed bright when in 1872 the O&C Railroad [Oregon and California] reached Roseburg. Farm machinery continued to improve, and through the first twenty years of the twentieth century horses continued to be used as the primary “engine” of the farm until they were eventually displaced by motorized equipment. As farm production increased and diversified, so did farm buildings. Barns that were initially used for multiple purposes were altered, moved or razed and replaced with buildings designed for specific functions such as carriage houses, sheep sheds, implement sheds, dairy barns and horse barns. Northern Douglas County farms continued to produce grains and livestock for market, and fruit and vegetable production increased. Hops were a lucrative crop in Oregon between the mid-1860s and the early 1900s; the Calapooya Creek watershed was particularly productive, and hop dryers and warehouses began to appear on the landscape. In 1884, A.G. Walling wrote “As a fruit region, the Umpqua valley shares with the Rogue river region the honor of producing the finest quality and greatest abundance of Oregon fruit. Apples, pears, plums, cherries, peaches, apricots and grapes grow in profusion.” As mechanized equipment became more commonplace, horse raising diminished, but cattle continued to be a common undertaking. Sheep and wool production in Douglas County preceded the establishment of the railroad, and persists today as a significant industry. In 1865 Douglas County had 48,507 sheep and produced 109,826 pounds of wool. Three years later...17 wagon loads of wool [were shipped] to Scottsburg for export to San Francisco. Although wool growers attempted to organize in 1873, their permanent association emerged in 1931 when they began sponsoring the Douglas County Fat Lamb and Wool Show. These growers took advantage of the abundant, well-watered grass of the Umpqua region.” After the turn of the century, turkeys raising emerged as an important industry, augmenting the already-successful sheep and cattle industries. “Between approximately 1920 and 1950, turkeys were one of the most important agricultural products in Douglas County. Oakland...hosted the Northwest Regional Turkey Show in the 1930s and 1940s.” With only ninteen people per square mile, it is clear that northern Douglas County continues to be dominated by agricultural, range and timber lands. Recent economic success has centered around timber and winemaking. THE BAIMBRIDGE-KANIPE FARMSTEAD Ownership History The Baimbridge-Kanipe Farmstead, with its arrangement of historic buildings dating from circa 1865 to circa 1935, represents a continuum of agricultural development and activity in Douglas County. Located in Township 24S Range 4W Section 18, the farm group is sited on the west side of County Highway 50, also known as Elkhead Road, in a draw along an unnamed creek. Deardorff Ownership 1854-1859 / Occupancy 1854-c1868 The site was first occupied by Euro-Americans with the arrival of Joseph and Elizabeth Deardorff in 1854. Records indicate that Joseph came from Indiana or Iowa, and his wife Elizabeth from Illinois. The two were married in Iowa in 1840, and by the time they arrived in Oregon they had seven children, aged one through eighteen years. They settled their claim in 1854, a parcel that consisted of almost 328 acres. The claim does not appear on the General Land Office maps, but the road that would later become Elkhead Road/County Road 50 is visible and terminates at the site of this farm in 1855. In 1859, the Deardorffs sold the claim to neighbor Winslow Phelps Powers for the sum of $1,000. However, it appears that the Deardorffs may have continued to live on the claim, as they are listed in the area in 1860 U.S. Census, where Joseph’s occupation was that of a farmer; $500 of personal property is indicated, but no real property value is listed for them. In 1865 Elizabeth died, several months after the birth of the couple’s last child. Joseph remarried to Emma Day in 1868 or 1869 in Douglas County, and by 1870 the Deardorffs had left Douglas County, and were listed in census records as living in Pleasant Hill, Lane County, Oregon. The family then moved to a ranch along Deardorff Creek in Grant County sometime around 1872. Powers Ownership 1859-1880 Winslow Powers, who was born in 1821 in Vermont, came to Oregon in 1847, settling on a claim in the Willamette Valley. Not long after his arrival, he traveled to the California mines, and ultimately removed to the Oakland area sometime in 1853. Deciding that he preferred farming and stock raising to mining, Powers passed on to the Umpqua Valley where he took a donation land claim... Here he erected a log house, cultivated the soil and surrounded himself with various kinds of stock... In 1853 he met an amiable young girl Miss Harriet N. [Newell] Tower who had crossed the plains with her parents in 1852 and was now located within four miles of Powers’ home. Genealogical data indicates that he married Harriet Tower in December of 1854 in Umpqua County, and their first child was born one year later. Powers’ house is mentioned in government surveyor’s notes from 1855, and he apparently “...constructed a sawmill in the English settlement east of Oakland. He built the first frame house in the area from lumber cut at his mill.” Based on the surveyor’s description, it appears that the house mentioned is on the southern part of Powers’ original claim (prior to his purchase of the Deardorff claim). It seems unlikely that the Powers’ ever lived on the Deardorff claim, since census and genealogical data indicates that the Deardorffs were still living in the vicinity – presumably on their claim southeast of the subject property – until the mid-1860s. Sometime between 1871 and 1874 the Powers family moved to Wallowa County, Oregon, renting the subject farm (the old Deardorff claim) to Thomas and Emily Baimbridge. Baimbridge family documents indicate that Powers was renting the property to the Baimbridges by June of 1872, and sold it to them in 1880. Baimbridge Tenancy c 1872-1880 / Ownership 1880-c1902 The Baimbridge family emigrated from Derbyshire, England in 1870. “George Hall, who owned a ranch east of Oakland [in English Settlement], was a relative and they first wintered in a cabin on his ranch. They then leased the Thomas place in near-by Driver Valley...” By 1872 they were renting and living on the land owned by Winslow Powers; they purchased the farm in 1880. One source states that the purchase price was “...$3,000 and 1,000 young ewe sheep...,” which suggests that the land was used for sheep ranching from at least the 1870s. The family resided there until both Thomas and Emily had passed away, in 1891 and 1896 respectively, at which time the farm (that portion including the house and outbuildings) was inherited by their youngest daughter Sarah, who was born in 1876. Kanipe Ownership c 1902-1983 Sarah married John A. Kanipe around 1902, and together they had two daughters, Leah and Mildred. John Kanipe was born in either North or South Carolina around 1871, and was living in Tennessee in 1880 before moving to Oregon with his parents sometime between 1880 and 1900. According to Mildred Kanipe, About 1876 the Kanipes with their only son John [Mildred’s father], aged 5, came to Oakland, Oregon, for a new start in ranching. They raised grain on different ranches in the area and about the time John got old enough to do a man’s work they rented the Doc Hall place east of Oakland where my father [John] raised grain and Percheron horses. He would raise the colts and break teams to work and sell them. About 1902 John Kanipe and Sarah Baimbridge were married. They lived on the original W.P. Powers claim. John Kanipe bought the adjoining farm from Mary Baimbridge [Sarah’s sister] and she lived with them. He later bought most of what had been the Baimbridge ranch. He owned a share in and helped run a threshing machine; it was powered by a J.I. Case steam engine and he used his teams of horses to pull the water wagon. He continued raising horses and grain but in later years turned mostly to sheep. John and Sarah Kanipe had two children, Leah and Mildred. Sarah died in 1907, and John and their two young daughters continued to live on the property along with Mary Baimbridge until John’s death in 1940. Census records indicate that the family farmed the land (listed as “general farmer” in 1920, and “stock farmer” in 1930). John Kanipe was locally known for breeding and training Percheron horses for use on area farms. It is likely that the alterations to the horse barn were done around the turn of the century by John, to accommodate his horses. Mildred, who never married, “inherited just over 290 acres of the Deardorff land claim in 1940 when her father died. Her Aunt Mary lived with Mildred until she passed away in 1955.” Augmenting her holdings by purchasing the adjacent Underwood farm, Mildred ultimately owned nearly 1,100 acres that included the Deardorff and Powers donation land claims. She was the sole owner and operator of the farm for over forty years, and continued to raise sheep and cattle, grow hay for winter feed, and keep goats, rabbits and poultry in a manner much as those before her had done. She worked the farm until poor health forced her to leave the land in 1980, and she died in 1983. Agriculture was the primary endeavor of most of the settlers coming to Oregon in the mid-ninteenth century. On arrival, construction of shelter and subsistence farming was as much as a family could handle. After several years, production increased and marketable crops in the form of grain, fruits, livestock, poultry, wool and dairy products became the economic foundation of these rural communities. This appears to be the pattern of development on the Baimbridge-Kanipe farmstead as well. This property has always functioned as a working farm; all owners and occupants of the property are listed in various census records as farmers, from 1860 to 1930. The variety and span of age of the buildings are evidence of its continuing and varied use over its 150 year life. CONSTRUCTION HISTORY The sequence of construction of buildings on the Baimbridge-Kanipe farm is difficult to discern. Dating of the outbuildings is particularly difficult due to the heavy use the buildings are subject to, and the subsequent deterioration, repair and remodeling to accommodate new uses. All buildings appear on the earliest aerial photograph available for the area, taken in 1939. It seems likely that the house, probably the oldest building in the farm group, was built either during the ownership of the Deardorffs (1854-1859) or the earlier years of the Powers' ownership (1859-1880), perhaps as late as 1870. While this area (T24S R4W) was surveyed and documented by the General Land Office in the years 1856, 1860 and 1897, no land claims are indicated on any of these maps for the section (Sections 18 and 19) in which the Baimbrige-Kanipe farm is located. Further, no survey notes were found for claims owned by either Deardorff or Powers, although Powers' house is mentioned as a point of reference in another survey. Two clues suggest the existence of a house (though not necessarily the current one) here in the 1850s. First, the 1856 GLO map shows the terminus of the future Elkhead road at this farm site. Second, Joseph and Elizabeth Deardorff did submit a notification for their claim, and a certificate for the claim in their name was issued in 1866. Requirements for receiving a certificate on a claim included living on and working the land for at least four years from the time of notification. The fact that the Deardorffs did not receive a certificate until 1866 does not necessarily suggest that the farm or any part of it did not exist until that date. It seems that most certificates were not issued until the mid-1860s. Once settlers had filed their notices of entry for ... claims, they were extremely slow to take title. The reluctance of the pioneer generation to procure a record of ownership for their lands was that once the land was patented, it was subject to taxation. As long as it was registered as a claim at the land office in Winchester or Roseburg, however, the property was protected as theirs. The only inducement to move a parcel toward patent was if the "owner" wished to subdivide or dispose of the lands. In many instances donation land claims and "preemption" lands in Douglas County did not go for patent until the original settler died. Regardless, land ownership records and the location of the house do not support the contention that the house was built as early as 1851-52 by Powers as suggested by Kanipe family and local lore. Most arrivals to the English Settlement area settled claims in 1853-54, and Powers did not own the land until 1859. Further, it is likely that the initial residence was a log cabin, followed later with a more substantial house. The physical features of the Baimbridge-Kanipe house coupled with land records and genealogical information support a potential construction period of perhaps the late 1850s to mid-1860s, though no direct historical documentation to confirm a specific date of construction has been found. For the purposes of this document, the construction date is set at circa 1865. The few pages of the 1872 diary/account book available from the Baimbridge family clearly suggest the existence of an established farm by that time. Payment of rent to W. Powers implies there is a house; sale of livestock, hay and grain suggest not only that the farm is producing these things but that there may also be a barn on the property. Dates extrapolated from newspapers on the walls of the house suggest that some portion of it may have been built prior to 1878. This construction – if it occurred as late as the mid-1870s - was likely either an addition (kitchen), a remodel or an interior refinishing project. This contention is supported by Leah Kanipe-Howard, Mildred Kanipe's sister who in her personal memoirs said that her grandfather, Thomas Baimbridge, completed the addition. Of the five outbuildings on the property, the horse barn appears to be the oldest. (See Figure 7) This transverse-plan barn contains mortise-and-tenon hand-hewn framing of a configuration that suggests an early construction date – perhaps as early as pre-1870s – and the Baimbridge diary entries 1872 do suggest the existence of a barn though the barn roof has since been altered. Hand-wrought nails and remnant hand-wrought gate hardware also support this dating. While the current roof pitch points to a later construction date – possibly as late as 1920 - a historic photograph shows the barn in the background with a lower pitch roof than the current configuration. This same photo also shows wood fencing and the Buggy Shed. (See Figure 10). The only building for which there is a somewhat definitive construction date is the Sheep Shearing Shed. According to the recollection of John Howard, Mildred Kanipe's nephew, the Shed was built in 1935 or 1936 by Mr. Howard's father Romie Howard. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS According to the Cultural and Historic Resource Inventory of Douglas County, a survey initially conducted in 1981-82 and revised in 2002, Historic resources associated with agricultural pursuits are distributed throughout most valleys in the County. The few early surviving resources such as barns and houses are located in the broad valleys that were taken by Donation Land Claimants in the late 1840's and the first half of the 1850's. Some early farm buildings have survived with buildings from a later period, but none have survived in the company of another from the same period.

RESEARCH INFORMATION

✓ Title Records
Sanborn Maps
Obituaries
City Directories

✓ Census Records
Biographical Sources
✓ Newspapers
Building Permits

✓ Property Tax Records
✓ SHPO Files
State Archives
State Library

✓ Local Histories
✓ Interviews
✓ Historic Photographs

Local Library:		**University Library:**	
Historical Society:	Douglas County	**Other Respository:**	

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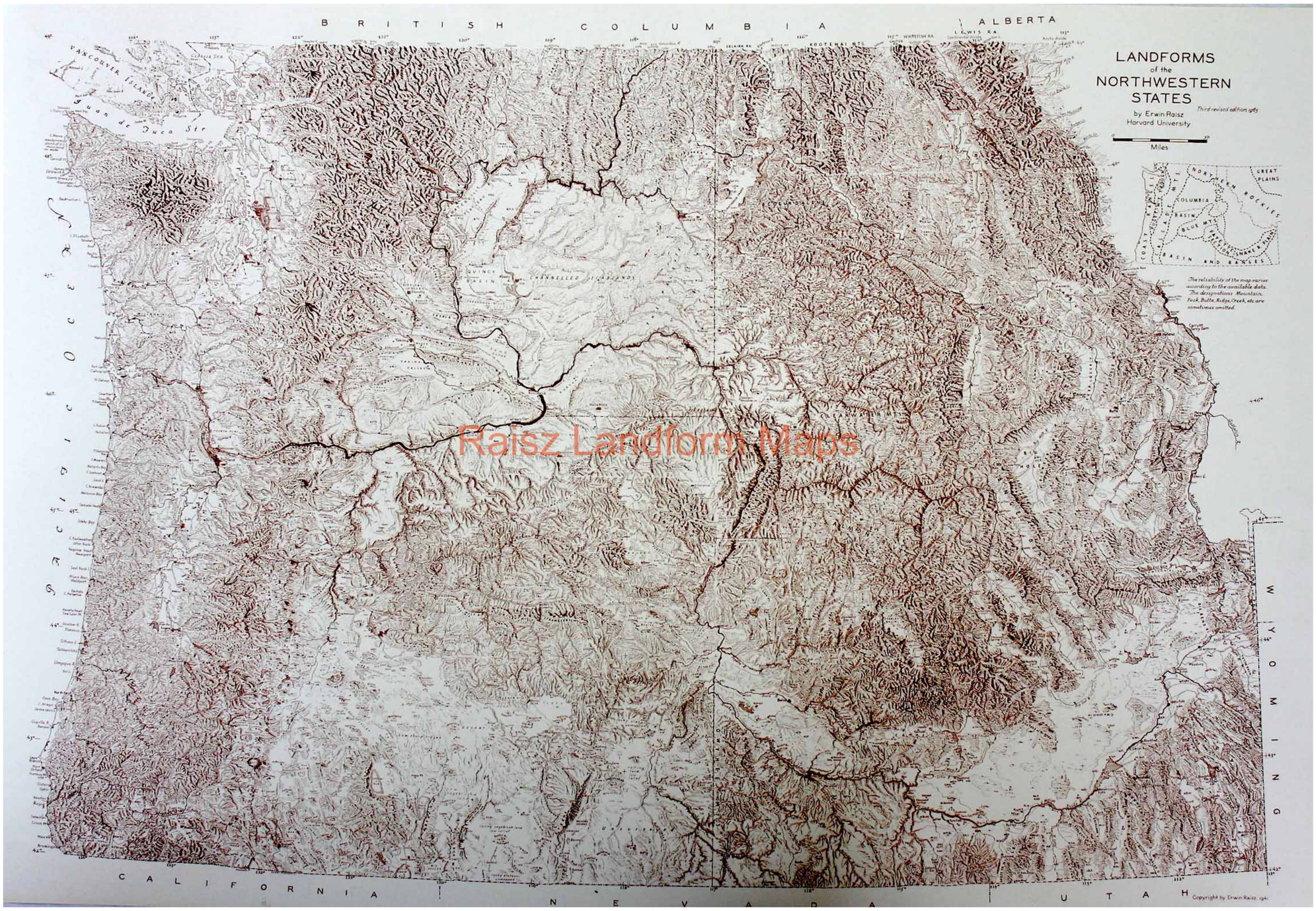

LANDFORMS
of the
NORTHWESTERN
STATES
Third revised edition 1965
by Erwin Raisz
Harvard University
Miles
GREAT PLAINS
NORTHERN ROCKIES
COLUMBIA BASIN
BLUE MTS
PAYETTE SECTION
SNAKE R. PLAIN
BASIN AND RANGES
COAST RANGES
PUGET TROUGH
CASCADE MTS
The reliability of the map varies according to the available data. The designations Mountain, Peak, Butte, Ridge, Creek, etc. are sometimes omitted.
BRITISH COLUMBIA
ALBERTA
VANCOUVER ISLAND
Juan de Fuca Str.
Pacific Ocean
QUINCY BASIN
CHANNELLED SCABLANDS
WYOMING
CALIFORNIA
NEVADA
UTAH
Copyright by Erwin Raisz, 1941

Raisz Landform Maps

Raiz Maps
Landforms of the Northwestern United States

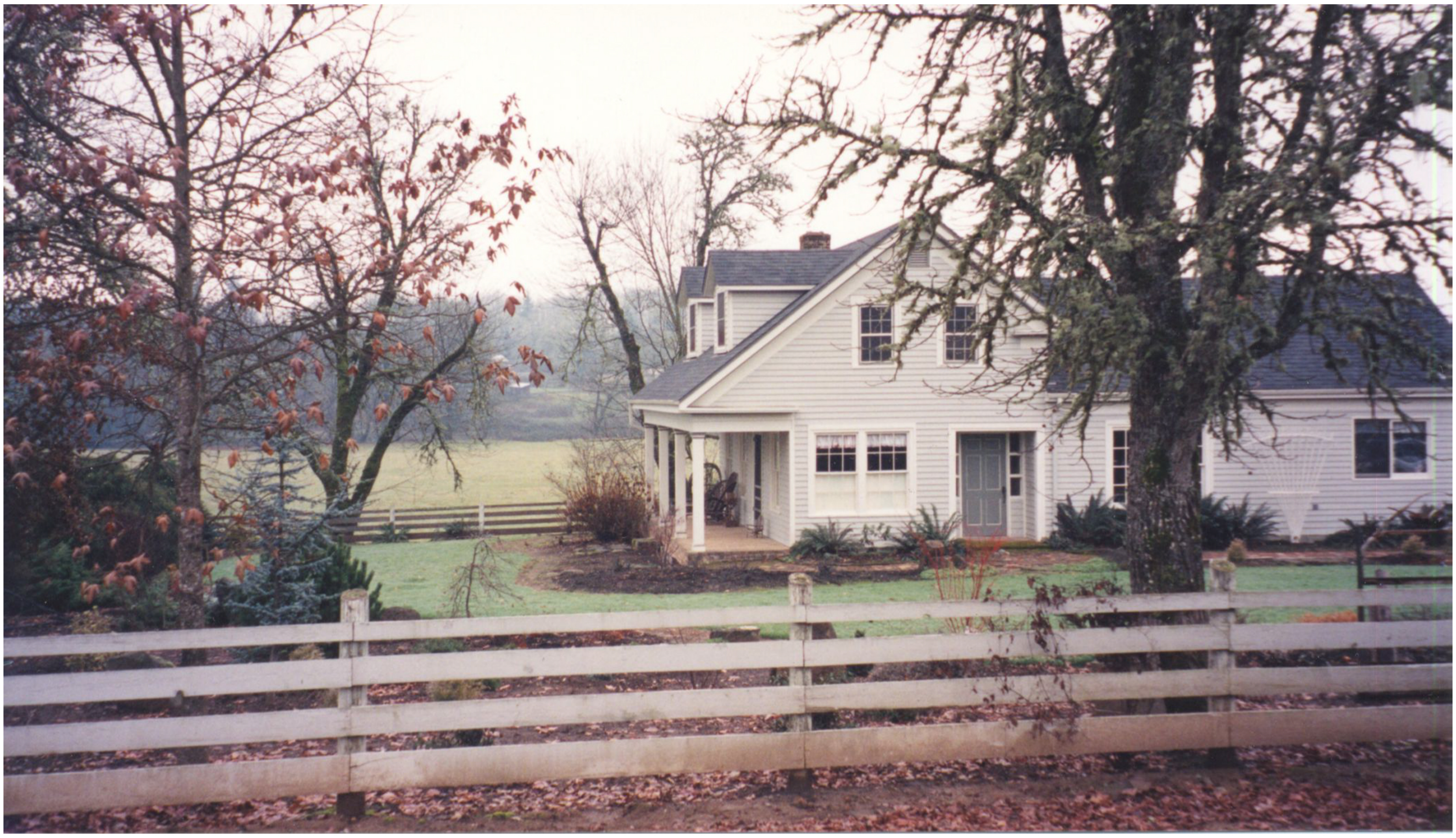
Notes from Email
Wally Dunsmoor
December 28 2025

Hi Jeff,

I saw a part of this 35”x25" map on one of the several (?) Oregon Trail websites. Looked the fellow up who made the map, https://www.raiszmaps.com/ and found I could order one from Massachutes for $15 ! The postage doubled that amount ! What a scandal, eh ? Never bought a map for that little, and it is great. His family is selling his maps now. I’ll find out more as I hope to have some other business with them. About a damaged map that was used as wrapping. It’s a no longer published Landform map of Canada and I’m trying to see if we can make a deal to republish it here. Sell like hotcakes, eh !

I’m going to have this map, Northwestern States, scanned at my blueprint place after the holidays. I’ll send you the scan and you can zoom in. I’ll use it to show the Trails and where we know our ancestors passed thru on my “Young Family Page” in the Baker House Project©…

Cheers,
ω.



The Old House Outside of Oakland, abt. 1995-1999
The Dear House

Notes from Email
Wally Dunsmoor
December 22 2025

Hi Jeff,

I’m not burning up the report for the archive but I have done some semi serious scanning lately. Dug thru the old cedar chest and found my photos I took when we last visited Oakland with my dad.

This is the old house outside of Oakland, abt. 1995-1999 when we just stopped on the road for a few photos. The house was no longer in, “the extended family” so we didn’t knock.
Best for you in the New Year,

Wally

Daniel Trullinger

Nathan Trullinger

Gabriel Trullinger

John *Jewett* + Harriet Sanborn

Son-in-Law James O Bond m. Mary L Jewett &
Came West w/ 4 children & John Jewett & Mary's mother, Saphronia Summers in 1847. Saphronia died at Fort Vancouver upon arrival. Harriet, also in the 47' Train, was a survivor of the Whitman Massacre, held captive with her children after her husband was murdered. The captives were released by the Wall Walla after HBC intervened.

G W *Coffenberry* + Sarah Fergerson

Hardin *Davis* + Iva Jane *Morton*

Hardin was son of Harmon Davis + Martha Shumate. Iva Jane was sister of Peter S *Morton*. Davis Hill near Wilbur named for their family.

James C *Looney* + Olivia *Davis*

The Looney-Davis-Grey house still stands, from 1850's.

Thomas *Maynard* + Mary *Davis*

Thomas *Edwards* + Barbara E *Rinehart*

Lucinda *Comegys*

Wilmer *Comegys* + Elizabeth Brittan

Presley *Comegys* + Melzina *Duncan*

Melzina was the sister of George Duncan, aunt of Sarilda married to Nimrod Comegys

George W *Bond* + Elizabeth *Stillwell*

George W *Rinehart* + Martha *Davis*

Peter S *Morton* + Emily Jane *Rinehart*

Washington *Jewett*

Lewis *Rinehart* + Elizabeth Ellis

John *Rinehart* + Sarah *Edwards*

George C *Duncan* + Louisa *Rinehart*

Isaac Silas *Davis* + Rebecca *Bond*

Isaac W *Bond* + Hetty McClure

Section 31

Allen *Bond*

George *Alkire* + Julia A Grant

Son William Alkire married the daughter of Isaac S Davis & Rebecca Bond, Martha Luella Davis.

John C *Looney* + Eliza J Brown

Nelson *Davis* + Elizabeth *Bond*

Arrived year after father, Harmon Davis, died. Settled with family & widowed mother and younger siblings (4) on the McKenzie River east of Eugene. Elizabeth was sister of George W Bond who staked a claim on the Willamette in Eugene.

Ebenezer *Hayes*

Solomon *Bond* + Huldah *Hayes*

Reuben W *Jewett* + Lydia Louisa *Hayes*

Seth W *Hayes* + Polly B *Stillwell*

Seth "Whipple Hayes" arrived in 1852 and was Murdered 1876 in Halsey, Linn Co.; which was platted on part of his DLC. Stabbed by saloon owner who was threatened by "Whipple Hayes" strong Temperance advocacy. 2nd murder & 2nd public hanging in County.

Seth *Hayes* + Lydia *Jewett*

Albert *Hayes*

William *Bond* + Hanna *Hayes*

John J *Lemmon* + Jane Bourne Crocker

Daughter Elizabeth married Charles Hezekiah Davis in 1862. Hezekiah did not file for a DLC, a "wild young man."

Benjamin *Walden* + Sarah J *Lemmon*

Sarah was oldest child of the Lemmon family. Wrote a memoir in the early 1900's, *"Sarah Cummins' Autobiography and Reminiscences"*

Ebenezer *Walden* + Catharine Smith

Father of Benjamin Walden. Date of their Trail year is not confirmed.

Isaac *Baker* + Eliza T Ash

Born Virginia: 1850 Census, Salem, Isaac 37, Eliza 32, Joseph A 12, William B 7, *Henry Jewett* 15. Noted as the house where Harmon Davis died, Sept 1852.

Capt. John *Baker* + Nancey B Haley

John Baker came to Oregon Territory in 1841 and then returned with his brother and others in 1847. Sea Captain ?

John *Purvine* + Mary Jane *Long 1*

Mary Jane *Long* was sister of David P *Long* who was married to Judith *Davis* [Gen. 2] She died in Oregon 25 June 1849. John *Purvine* died one month before the Davis Train of 1852 arrived.

Ewing *Purvine*

Nelson *Purvine*

David P *Long* + Judith *Davis*

Parents of Mary Jane Long 2. David was brother of Mary Jane Long 1. Judith was daughter of Moses & Winifred Davis.

Humphrey Long **+ Mary Jane *Long 2***

Witness' at their wedding, 1855, were W.E. Parris & Mary Jane's uncle, Nathan D. Hatfield, widower of Rachel Davis who was a sister of Judith Davis.

John *Bond* + Sarah Chastain

Harmon C *Davis* + Susan J *Bond*

John C Trullinger

Isaac *Davis*

Edmond Washburn + Julia *Davis*

Samuel *Laughlin* + Nancy Doty

Nancy, who settled the DLC with Samuel, died in 1849.
Jane Jones *Davis,* widow of Silas, arrived with her 6 surviving children in 1852 and married Samuel the next year.

William Ball + Mary A "Polly" *Davis*

Mary was the daughter of Silas *Davis* & Jane Jones & Step-daughter of Samuel *Laughlin* whose DLC was adjacent to that of William Ball.
After Mary's death William married her cousin Mary Jane *Long 1,* daughter of David P *Long* + Judith *Davis*

Benjamin *Stewart* + Ann.....

Daughter Emmaline married Lee *Laughlin*,
Daughter Frances married John Fox.

John *Laughlin* + Susannah McCoy

daughter, Isabelle Laughlin who married Daniel Cain *Davis*, son Of Isaac *Davis* & Sarah Cain

Lee *Laughlin* + Emma ***Stewart***

William *Laughlin* + Pheobe

Robert R *Laughlin*

James M *Laughlin*

Davis-Rinehart-Bond OmniOutlne

Notes from Email
Wally Dunsmoor
November 11 2025

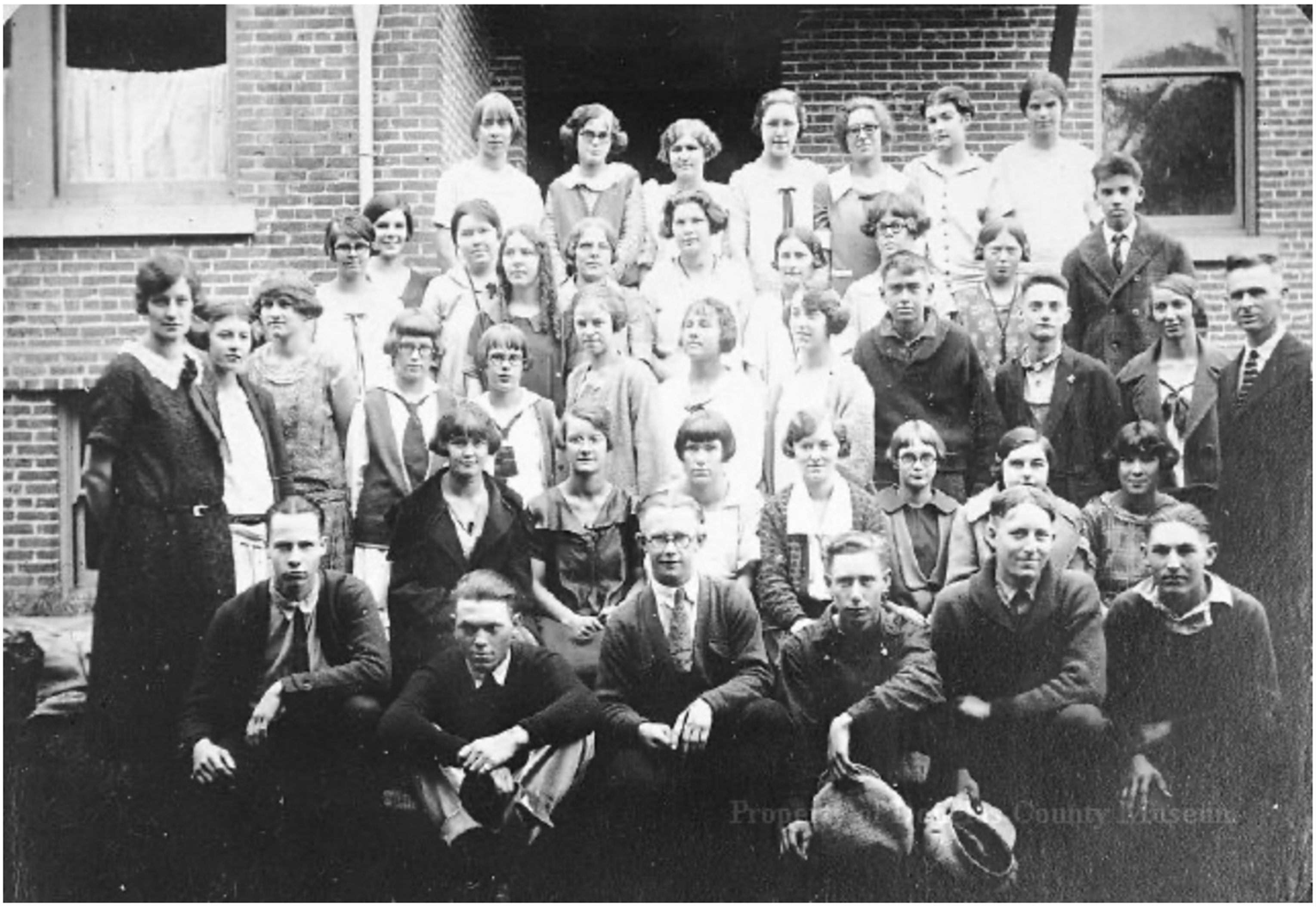
Hi Jeff,

Working thru my piles of notes, etc, that I have from my earlier ancestry days. These are the Trains from 47-52-53 that are part of the Davis-Rinehart-Bond families. In my app, OmniOutliner, this is a better outline but I figure the Word app is what you will open it in.

Just an example of another way to save the connections and stories.

Notice Seth Hays….

Cheers,
Wally



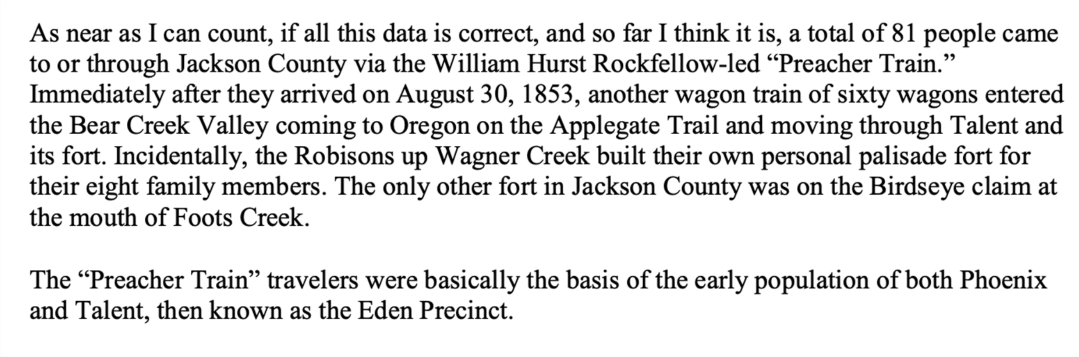
Yoncalla High School Students, Yoncalla, OR

Blanch Toner

Notes from Email
Wally Dunsmoor
November 3 2025

Hi Jeff, Sorry, I’m cleaning out my “Draft” box.

I believe that you have this photo ? I recognise her from other photos. 1924-1925



As near as I can count, if all this data is correct, and so far I think it is, a total of 81 people came to or through Jackson County via the William Hurst Rockfellow-led “Preacher Train.” Immediately after they arrived on August 30, 1853, another wagon train of sixty wagons entered the Bear Creek Valley coming to Oregon on the Applegate Trail and moving through Talent and its fort. Incidentally, the Robisons up Wagner Creek built their own personal palisade fort for their eight family members. The only other fort in Jackson County was on the Birdseye claim at the mouth of Foots Creek.

The “Preacher Train” travelers were basically the basis of the early population of both Phoenix and Talent, then known as the Eden Precinct.

More Applegate Trail

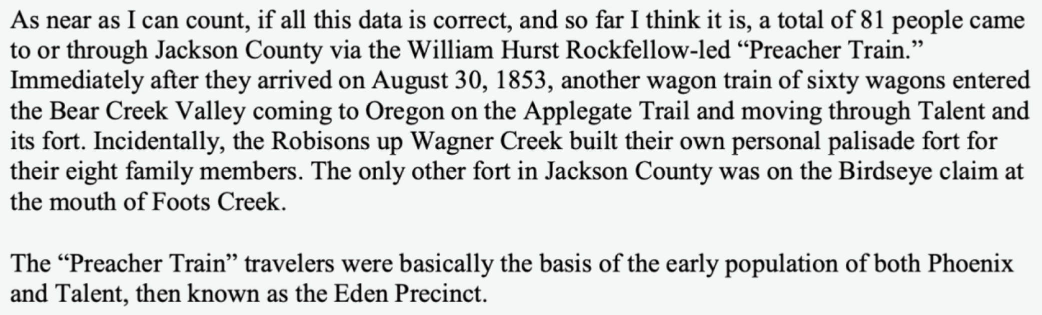
Notes from Email

Wally Dunsmoor
November 3 2025

Hi Jeff,

Just reading about the preacher train, also in 53'. Then this mention of another train coming via the Applegate.

These trains were entering Southern Oregon via the Applegate when the "Lost Train" was still following the Malheur River on Meek's cutoff. The Preacher Train never travelled on a Sunday but they still won the race that year. 2 months before the arrival of the first wagon of the Elliott train. Of course they only had one Baptist preacher, the rest were Methodists….so there was no flogging either-:)



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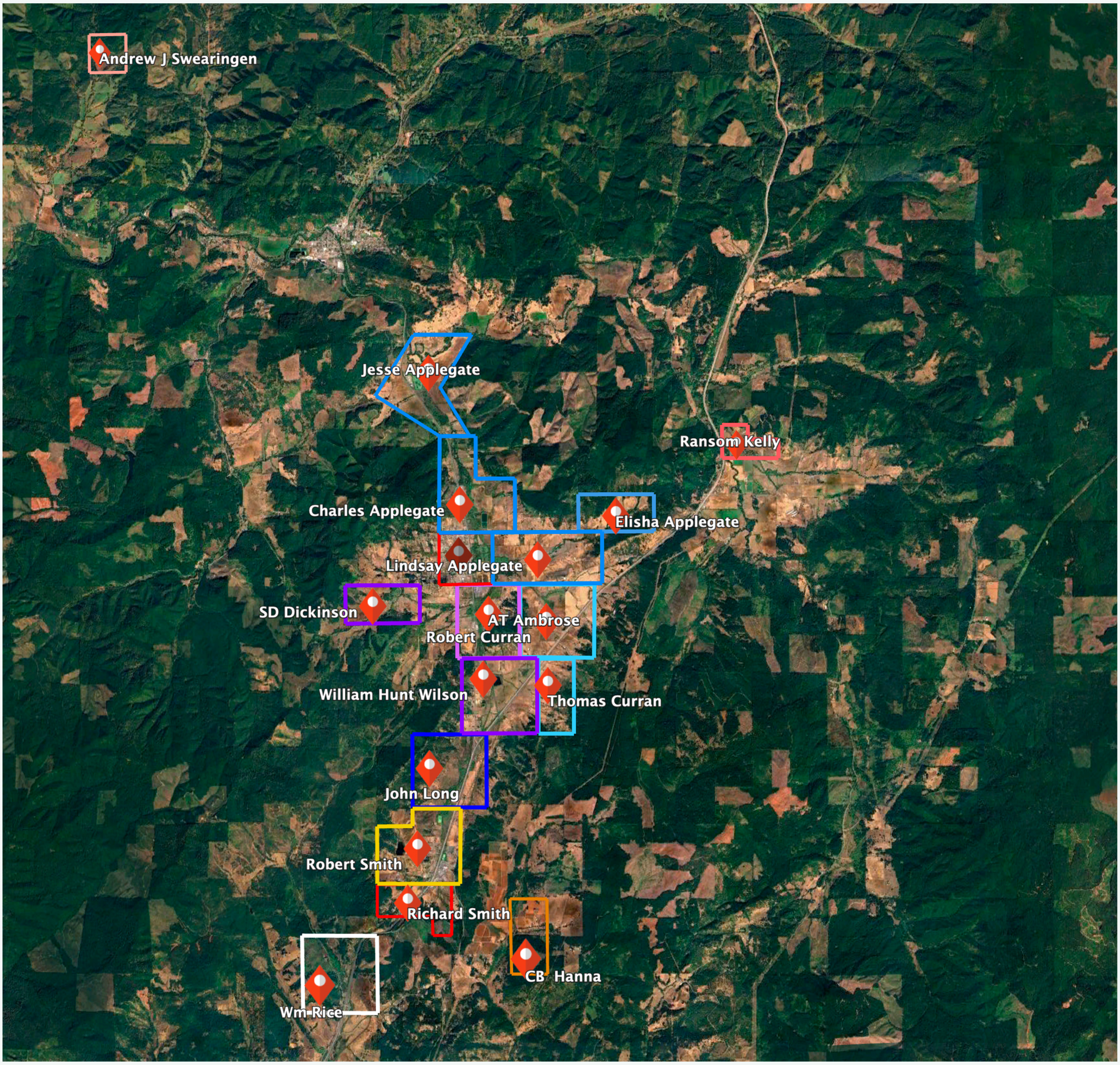
Wally


Andrew J Swearingen
Jesse Applegate
Ransom Kelly
Charles Applegate
Elisha Applegate
Lindsay Applegate
SD Dickinson
AT Ambrose
Robert Curran
William Hunt Wilson
Thomas Curran
John Long
Robert Smith
Richard Smith
CB Hanna
Wm Rice

43' - 53' DLC's

Notes from Email

Wally Dunsmoor
November 3 2025

Hi Jeff,

Sending you some of my “collected" notes that deal with the Smiths and the Trains of 43’ & 53’.

Your question about finding connections between the Smith family after Robert had been 10 years in Oregon led me to consider their claims. I think most of these DLC’s were staked by settlers who were in either the 43’ or the 53’ trains. Ransom Kelly came on the Elliott and might have been a Teamster for the Young train. He married Maria Smith. He was also one of the men who went ahead to find the new road over the cascades. You might have info on the Swearingen line, when/how they came, etc.

Wally

The Darker Corners of Family History

July 11, 2024

The Darker Corners of Family History - Oregon Trail Genealogy

Notes from Email

Wally Dunsmoor
November 2 2025

Hi Jeff,
Just got to this fellows site and I am impressed. Looking for mention of any of our trees...

https://oregontrailgenealogy.com/the-darker-corners-of-family-history/

Re: Elliotts cutoff

Notes from Email

Wally Dunsmoor
October 29 2025

Hi Jeff,

Have a good time in NY. We already had Thanksgiving (on the proper date) and I blessed the turkey with the old Scottish grace that I learned from my late father in law. His parents were from Glasgow so it may differ a bit from the Robbie Burns "Selkirk" version.

"Some hae meat and canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it,
But we hae meat and we can eat,
Sae let the Lord be Thankit!"

I didn't get into the development of the "modern" turkey and how one of my mother's uncles received an award for his part in making the birds "super-sized". I'll save that for Christmas.

As I remember, the connection of the Smith family on the 43' & 53' trains was also mentioned by Stephanie in her list of either the 43' or 53' settlers. There are several family connections from the 47' train to the 52' & 53' trains in the Davis family line.

Also, the Elliott cutoff was organised & financed by settlers in the Willamette Valley who wanted a shorter and free version of the Barlow directly to the head of the Willamette Valley.

The first settlers who over-wintered in the Umpqua are immortalised by a marker at the creek where they spent a tough winter after coming over the Applegate in 48'. Cabin Creek flows thru the Baker DLC and joins the Callapoya near where the Baker Grist Mill stood. Settlers were not pleased with the Applegate or the Elliott or the Barlow during each trails first year of operation.

If I'm correctly judging the location of the birth of Garrett Young, Oct 2,1853, having occurred at Silver Lake, East of the cascades, rather than at Silverton in the Willamette Valley, then the Young wagon(s) was definitely not in the vanguard of the trains on the Elliott who had reached Bend. As I noted before, I've seen two mentions of an, "Ed Young", and his wife and 1 year old son, Willie, but nothing about the other Youngs or the Hall or Smith families, so far. I expect that the Smiths & Halls also arrived with the last trains due to their having so many cattle.

Within days of Garrett's birth the Young train probably had to cross the cascades into the Willamette valley before the snow began. After the "lost wagons" had arrived at Eugene-Springfield they certainly wintered there and the next spring or summer travelled South to the Umpqua region. If the Youngs, Halls, Smiths, Cozads & others (Stearns, Chenowiths ?) arrived at Pleasant Hill [note; I need to locate the Elliott census again] and then moved South in 54' they were certainly in contact with Smith 43' who was now settled in Yoncalla with the Applegates, 8 miles up the Goodrich trail from Oakland. I would assume that Rbt Smith helped the settlers find their claims in the Driver Valley. Brother James Smith's DLC was next to the three Hall claims.

Ok, end of meanderings. Great that your brother is joining up. Has he lived in Oregon or is he just a Washingtonian ?

Cheers,
Wally

Re: Elliotts cutoff

Notes from Email

Jeffrey Hunt
October 26 2025

Hello! I've been busy lately, trying to get everything organized and am rotating through various projects. Right now I'm stuck in the travel-planning phase — flying to Kingston, New York over Thanksgiving to visit my younger daughter Gemma — but I'm almost through it. Once that's behind me, I'll move on to the next category of work. Too many open notebooks and photo piles lying around!

I talked to my brother, Meredith Hunt — he's actually more of a writer than I am — and he volunteered to work with me. I believe we have primary-source material on the Elliott Cutoff that's genuinely significant. One of the discoveries that caught my attention is the family link between the Smith brothers' 1843 and 1853 journeys. Robert Smith's role in helping open the southern route may have influenced the decision to explore the Elliott Cutoff ten years later. There's got to be a connection there — maybe a "my older brother did it, so can we" kind of thinking.

There's still confusion over who exactly was calling the shots, but you and I both found evidence that at least three wagon trains combined before taking the Elliott Cutoff. The Smith brothers were among them — maybe not leading the entire expedition, but they were heading one of the independent trains that linked up. That Smith family connection between the 1843 trip, opening the southern route, and the 1853 "lost wagon train" are actually historically significant links - that have not been made before.   (Then there is that Smith family album of mine that likely holds more photos of 1853 travel companions - many unidentified still)

I'm looking at submitting to the Oregon Historical Quarterly. A peer-reviewed publication carries real weight — it gets cited, archived, and becomes part of the historical record. It could help clarify this part of the Oregon Trail story far more accurately than the fragmented accounts that exist now.

That's why your work on the Bakers and the Baker House matters too. We're in a strong position — between all your information and the photos we have on hand, we're sitting on primary visual material there that's never been published. You should push for publication there too.

This is how we get the family's story properly anchored in the historical record — through publication. That's what makes it permanent. Just some thoughts. The internet archive of course will help all with the documentation.

Hope you are well!

Jeff

Elliotts cutoff

Notes from Email
Wally Dunsmoor
October 21 2025

Hi Jeff,

Each time I work on the Baker House report I find new info that stalls things…almost ready to send some preliminary page as a test. In the meantime I will just send this latest speculation...

The other day I spent time on a couple of websites comparing the reports about the Elliott Cutoff and how this corresponds to our family knowledge. Most interesting was the memoir of one of the advance party sent out to find the road or raise the alarm in the valley. Those poor fellows mistook the South Sister for Diamond Peak and came up the Mackenzie River (Cascade branch of the Willamette) to Springfield/Eugene which brought them first to the house of, "The Widow Davis". She was a g-g-g-grandmother of mine, Martha Shumate Davis. She only came over in 1852 with lots of family so her house would have been fairly new and simple. She was living on her oldest son's DLC. Her husband had died in Salem just after they arrived. 7 of the 30+ family members died either on the trail or with 2 weeks of arriving via the Barlow. Anyway, he mentions that they arrived at the Widows Place on October 18. They arrived there a day or two before the Elliott train was discovered by settlers who immediately took them supplies & led them to the valley by the planned Pleasant Hill route. All the wagons came via Pleasant Hill which arrives at Eugene/Springfield from the SE.

We have some info that states that James Crockett Young was born on 21 October, 1853 in Silverton Oregon. I don't think anyone from the lost train was able to reach as far North as Silverton 3 days after they were found in the Cascades. Looking at the route I realise it could be another obituary mistake…*Silver Lake* was where they found a quantity of drinkable water after going around the alkaline lakes in Harney County. So, it makes sense that "Scotch Jimmy" was born where they actually passed thru. In the report I'll suggest a different place of birth for the "first person of the Young-Vail-Dear families to be born in Oregon."

This "discovery" "speculation" gives me some satisfaction. I can still vaguely recall traveling from Wagontire to Silver Lake to Fort Rock to Bend on our side trips to the Willamette or Umpqua valleys. I might have stood where old Jimmy was born ! Haha…

In short; if Jimmy was born in Marion county on 21 October the Young train must have been transported over the cascades by alien craft.

Another interesting report, actually mentioned by two people, was the overturning of Ed Young's wagon in a river (?). One mentions that Ed's wife and son, Willie, were trapped briefly until ½ dozen men jumped in and pulled them out. EG's son, William, was 1 year old when they left their old home and came to Oregon. Poor Willie had a rough & short life.

Hope you're surviving the craziness down there, eh !

Cheers,
Wally

Please, what/where ?

Notes from Email

Wally Dunsmoor
October 5 2025

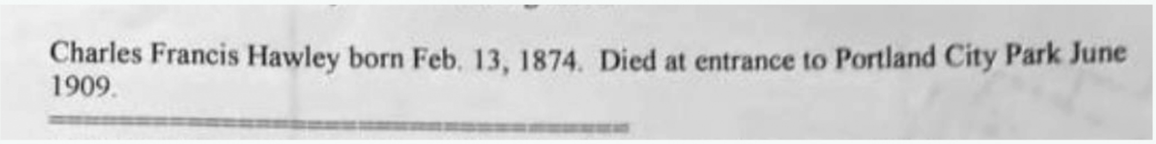
Hi Jeff,

Finally read the Mary Wells memoir on the Archive.

If it was Terwilliger Park we have another interesting “connection…

Run over by a Model A while demonstrating outside the Portland ICE headquarters. ? Oh wait, that’s not 1909….they used nightsticks and horses then.

Wally



Charles Francis Hawley born Feb. 13, 1874. Died at entrance to Portland City Park June 1909.

Charles Wallace Vail and Family Camas

Notes from Email

Wally Dunsmoor
October 5 2025

Hi Jeff,

Glad I missed that flood. Been thru a few minor floods, imagine. I didn't realise that the UofW had a Vail photo collection.
In this day of access these schools need to catch up. Try and find a photo of EG Young or any of the Walla2 families photos that are surely in the Whitman archive. They even have the first years account book of Young & Vail, 1858 and you can look it over if you reserve a time to attend in person. Aggg

We do have one photo of CW Vail himself, and probably another of him with his wife and children and his parents, maybe brother and his family too ? You found it in the steel box. Also, the photo included Thurman with wife and daughter, as well as Charles's parents, Thurmans aunt &uncle. I commented, more than once-:), on this photo. Now I'll revise my comments on the Mugs site.

Before I opened the link to the OHS I thought it was the Oakland Historic Society.

My guesses:

Charles Wallace Vail is sitting 2nd from far end, on the right side. He might be between a brother and SIL or sister & BIL.

The FIL of Charles is at the head of the table and his MIL has the round glasses. Yes, I was right, she is from France ! [take what victories you can, especially for long shot guesses].

The wife of CW Vail is next to your grandmother, extending her hand to her son who looks like his dad. I suspect that whomever is taking the photo was sitting in the chair now occupied by Charles William Vail. The younger Vail, or his descendants, seems to have had a studio on Whidbey Island. I've tried the phone number but there is no answer or voicemail. Still Vail descendants running about with cameras ?

Wally

On horses - Scroggins, John Scott, Benj. Grubb, R.P. Shirley, William Hanna and Thomas Smith.

On cattle - A. C. McGee, B. F. Smith, Thos. Stevens, Thos. Cowan and Benj. Butler.

On fruit - T. F. Colvin, Robert Cowan and John P. Ladd.

On needlework - Mrs. Goltra, Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. Whitmore.

On the fine arts - Wm. H. Brackett, E.C. Lord and S. Marks.

The different committes, after a careful examination in their departments, reported the following persons as entitled to certificates, to wit: Best full grown stallion - R. M. Hutchison; 2nd do., - B.P. Smith; Best three year old stallion - John H. Meyers; Best sucking colt - Smith and Beckley; 2nd do., - George Hall; 3d. do., - John Long; Best brood mare - Smith and Beckley; 2d do., - George Hall; 3d. do., - Reasin Reed; Best 2 year old filly - George Hall; Best 3 year filly - Wm. Deardorff; 2d. do., - A.E. McGee; Best yearling filly - Reasin Reed; Best saddle horse - Levi Scott; 2d. do.,- R. P. Shirley; Best full grown bull - Samuel Handsake; Best yearling bull - John Long; Best two cows - George Hall; Best two calves - George Hall; Best yearling heifer - Dr. Hall; Best lot of cheese - John Hall; Best lot of butter - John Hall; 2d. do., - (2 lots) - Handsaker and Wm. Deardorff; Best lot of ambrotype portraits - Mrs. E.J. Gultra; Best bed quilt - Mrs. Ellison; Best lot apples - Thomas Stevens; 2d do., - F. Sutherlin; 3d do., - G.W. Crusan; Best lot pears - F. Sutherlin; Best lot grapes - F. Sutherlin; 2d. do., - Thomas Stevens; Best lot squash - B.P. Smith; Best lot beets - B.P. Smith; Best lot potatoes - B.P. Smith; Best lot radishes - B. P. Smith; Best jar currant jelly - Mrs. T. Stevens; Best jar peach preserves - Mrs. T. Stevens; Best jar pear preserves - Mrs. T. Stevens; Best 2 jars gooseberries - Dr. Hall.

do. means ditto.

Chenoweth Oakland Notes

Notes from Email

Wally Dunsmoor
October 5 2025

Hi Jeff,

My info for the day is this paragraph from Chenoweth's book about Oakland.

Only 7 years after many of them came over the Elliott they loaded up on prizes at the first Oakland Fair.

The story about the Halls and Smiths joining up on the trail mentions the many cattle and horses that each family brought with them. George Hall sure did (as well as his two brothers who made great butter). And who thought that Trail Captain, BP Smith would have such a winning touch with beets, potatoes and radishes as well as Stallions ?

When my grandma's (June McKay Dear) father and his siblings and his father came from Tennessee in 1880-/+ they came along with their old neighbours and friends; Ellisons, Winniford, etc. Wait until you see the photo I found of Winniford…

The second property (it appears so far) that the new partnership of Young & Vail purchased; along with another partner of Dr. Bakers, Carrick H Barnett, was the DLC of Wm H. Brackett, Fine Art Specialist-:) They paid $3,300 for the 319 acres in 1858. My premise is that gold fuelled much of the early development. Vail came from the Yreka gold fields as did Barnett who we know was partnering with Baker in supplying Yreka. Vail, according to Amanda's obituary (??) ran a pack train from Humbolt Bay to Yreka. Also, Richard Thomas (Dear-Thomas Ranch, Depot Hotel, Thomas Hotel) an orphan, went to California in 1850 and arrived in Oakland pre 1855 and put together a 1,000+ acre ranch.

So, this is my morning hit to wake up my brain. I'm going to extend this info to a page about Chenoweth's book later but you can post it to the "dropbox" page if you wish for now. Mostly, it caught me off guard, the vegetables…

Wally

Name	Chas W Vail
Age	3/12 [0]
Estimated Birth Year	abt 1940 [abt 1940]
Gender	Male
Race	White
Birthplace	Oregon
Marital Status	Single
Relation to Head of House	Son
Home in 1940	Camas, Clark, Washington
Map of Home in 1940	Camas, Clark, Washington
Street	Birch
House Number	1423
Sheet Number	1B
Attended School or College	No
Neighbors	View others on page

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
Ward Young	60	Head
Lea Young	62	Wife
Gladys Vail	33	Daughter
Chas Wallace Vail	38	Son-in-law
Chas W Vail	**3/12**	**Son**

Charles Wallace Vail and Family Camas

Notes from Email

Wally Dunsmoor
October 5 2025

Hi Jeff,

These might be some of the folks in the photo of lunch on the back deck. This might have been taken at a cabin on the coast.

COUNTY

(Form 1)

Oregon War Records—Personal Military Service

Cornelia Marvin, State Historian, State Library, Salem

County Douglas; School District No. 13; City Looking Glass rural, Oregon.

I. PERSONAL HISTORY—Name in full Walter, Leo, Cozad,

☒ Born in U. S. ☐ ~~Foreign born~~. ☒ White. ☐ ~~Negro~~. ☐ ~~Indian~~. ☐ ~~Japanese~~. ☐ ~~Chinese~~. ☐ ~~Other~~

Home (postoffice) address Lookingglass, Oregon

Present address, No. ...., Street ...., City ...., State ....

1. One Place of birth (give state, county and city) Looking Glass. Douglas Co Date of birth April 12th 1897

~~Married?~~ No When? Where?

~~Wife's maiden name~~ Number of children

Father's name Marion A. Cozad Born when Nov 18 1861 Where Oregon

Mother's maiden name Alice J. Micklem Born when April 24 ~~Where~~ 1876 "

Date came to U. S. Born in U.S. ~~Date naturalized~~ ~~Date came to Oregon~~

Former residences

Schools attended (give places and dates)—Elementary Looking Glass Or

~~High school~~ Common School ~~College~~

Occupation before war Farmer

2. Agr.

II. MILITARY OR NAVAL SERVICE—Date entered for this war Sept 5th, 1918 Place Camp Lewis Wash

3 ☒ U. S. ☐ By enlistment or ☒ Draft. ☐ Other (Service with allies)

Branch of service entered: ☒ Regular army. ☐ National guard. ☐ National army. ☐ Army reserve corps. ☐ Navy. ☐ Other

Organization entered, name and number of company, regiment or unit 11th Co. 3rd Bn. 166. D.B.

Transfers

Branch of army: ☒ Infantry. ☐ Artillery: ☐ Field, ☐ Coast, ☐ Anti-aircraft. ☐ Engineer corps. ☐ Medical department (specify corps). ☐ Cavalry ☐ Quartermaster corps. ☐ Ordnance department. ☐ Signal corps. ☐ Aviation. ☐ Spruce production. ☐ Motor transport. ☐ U. S. guard. ☐ Other (specify)

Branch of navy: ☐ Navy. ☐ Naval reserve. ☐ Marine corps. ☐ Naval militia. ☐ Coast guard. ☐ Other.

Name of ship or assignment

Students' army training corps. Name of school

Previous military service: ☐ Regular army. ☐ Navy. ☐ Marine corps. ☐ National guard. ☐ Mexican border. ☐ Reserve corps. ☐ Spanish-American war. ☐ Philippine insurrection. ☐ China relief expedition. ☐ Other.

III. RANK AND PROMOTIONS—Give promotions and dates

Give rank and organization at close of war

Distinguished service. Medals and citations

4. X

In what periodicals or newspapers have letters, photographs or notices been published? (Give exact date of each. If several, list on back of sheet.) None.

IV. LOCATIONS—Officers' training camp

Cantonments or other stations Camp Lewis Wash

5. U.S.

Length of foreign service (give dates) Where?

Battles and engagements

Captured by the enemy

German prisons

Date discharged or mustered out of service Where? Landed U. S.

Casualties. Wounds

Death. Date Sept 25th 1918 Cause Spanish Influenza

Place Camp Lewis Wash Where buried Looking Glass Ore

6. Died of disease U.S. 25 9 18

This report will be preserved by the State of Oregon. Write with ink. Send to the State Historian, care of the State Library, Salem, Oregon, photographs and clippings about the soldier or sailor. These also will be put in the State file. Do not hold blank to fill later. Give all the information you have about any man in any military or naval service, and put question mark (?) after answers if not sure they are correct. Write other items of interest on back of sheet, numbered by section.

Nearest relative, name Marion A. Cozad ~~Father~~ Address Looking Glass Relationship Father

Report made by " " Address " " Date Mch 26th 19

Mark cross (X) in square ☐ in front of word to answer "yes" for each question.

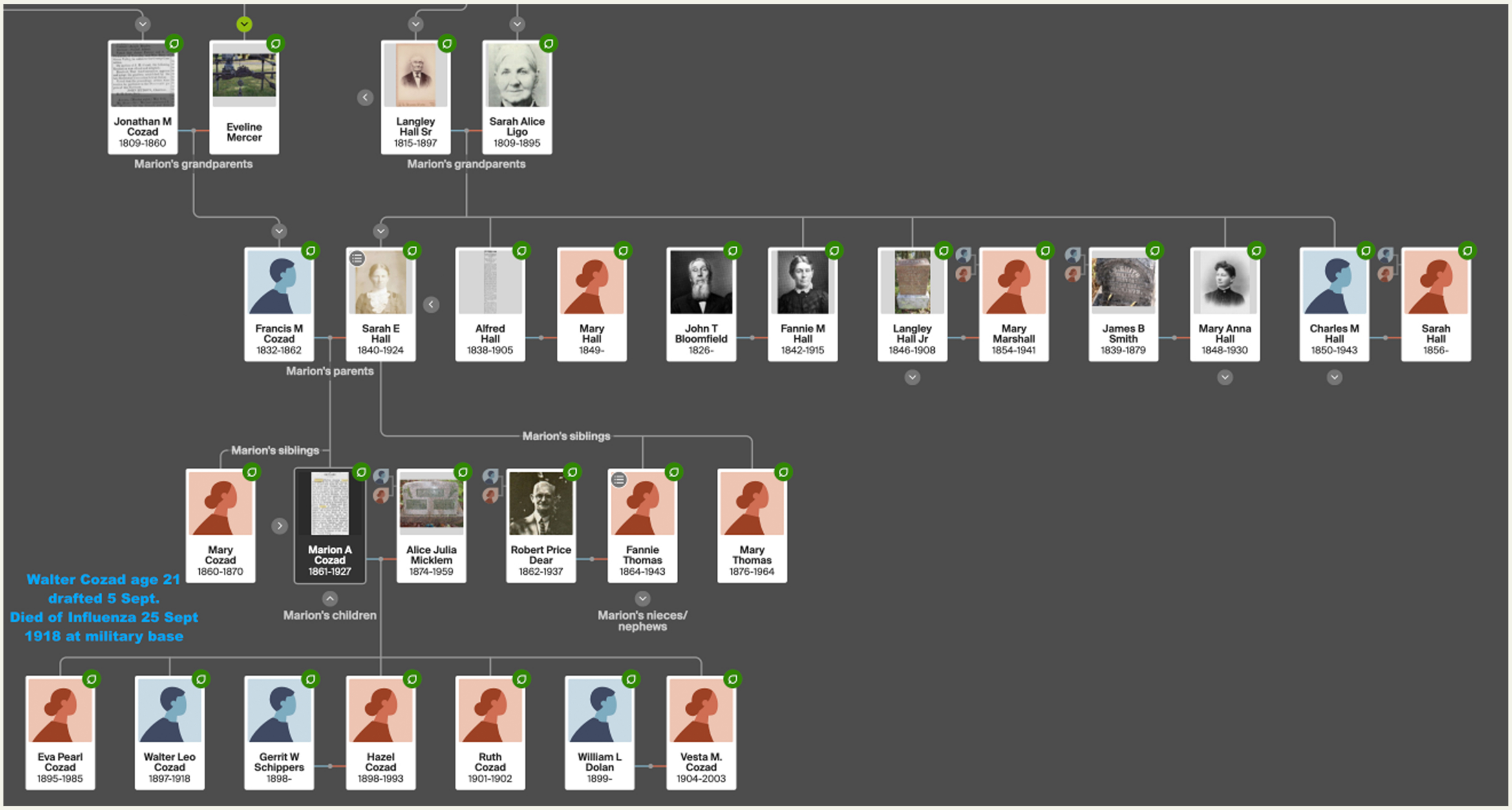
574-42 Defense Council

WWI Personal Records — Douglas County School Districts 5 to 25

Oregon War Records

Notes from Email
Wally Dunsmoor
October 1 2025

Forgot this


Jonathan M Cozad 1809-1860
Eveline Mercer
Langley Hall Sr 1815-1897
Sarah Alice Ligo 1809-1895
Marion's grandparents
Marion's grandparents
Francis M Cozad 1832-1862
Sarah E Hall 1840-1924
Marion's parents
Alfred Hall 1838-1905
Mary Hall 1849-
John T Bloomfield 1826-
Fannie M Hall 1842-1915
Langley Hall Jr 1846-1908
Mary Marshall 1854-1941
James B Smith 1839-1879
Mary Anna Hall 1848-1930
Charles M Hall 1850-1943
Sarah Hall 1856-
Marion's siblings
Marion's siblings
Mary Cozad 1860-1870
Marion A Cozad 1861-1927
Alice Julia Micklem 1874-1959
Robert Price Dear 1862-1937
Fannie Thomas 1864-1943
Mary Thomas 1876-1964
Marion's children
Marion's nieces/ nephews
Eva Pearl Cozad 1895-1985
Walter Leo Cozad 1897-1918
Gerrit W Schippers 1898-
Hazel Cozad 1898-1993
Ruth Cozad 1901-1902
William L Dolan 1899-
Vesta M. Cozad 1904-2003

Walter Cozad age 21
drafted 5 Sept.
Died of Influenza 25 Sept
1918 at military base

Looking Glass – Marion Cozad

Notes from Email
Wally Dunsmoor
October 1 2025

Hi Jeff,

This will end up in the working page but I just followed a hint and couldn't pass it up. Oh man. My wife's father had the Spanish Flu when he was 6 years old in 1918. He and his mother survived and he lived to 97. Out in rural Manitoba the local doctor gave them cod liver oil which old Matt claimed saved their lives. Don't let Bloody Kennedy Jr. hear about this….

Poor Cozad. This might be a connection to your family in Melrose, Looking Glass ?. The Codads came with the Halls over the Elliott and settled nearby on a DLC, just North of the Halls. This kid's mother was Sarah E Hall who later married Richard Thomas and built the Thomas Hotel. Marion Cozad was ½ brother-in-law to Robert Price Dear. His great uncle was James B Smith !

So, he was drafted at age 21 at end, or near, of WWI. Died 20 days after he arrived at the base in Pierce Washington. The old cemetery in Victoria is full of headstones of soldiers who survived the war but brought the flu home. Military bases must have been ground zero. Sorry, this one hit a bit close to home on various issues.

Wally

Sarah Elizabeth Hall

Notes from Email

Wally Dunsmoor
September 28 2025

Hi Jeff,

Realised I had this portrait of Sarah Elizabeth Hall in the gallery. Daughter of the famous Langley Hall, Homeopathic Doctor. She married Richard Thomas in 64' after her first husband, Francis Cozad, died in 62'. Cozad's came over the Elliott with the Halls and staked a DLC just NW of the Hall ranches. Cozad seems to have been from England originally, like the Halls.

You may remember that I spoke with Sarah's great-granddaughter & g-g-granddaughter a couple of years ago. The Dear-Thomas Ranch has been in family hands since +/- 1857. Now it's 2,500 acres. I'm going to ask if they can verify the boundaries of the existing ranch. I have marked out the separate parcels of Thomas' DLC. He really thought ahead. And he and Sarah built the Depot Hotel when the railroad arrived in 73'. After Richard died and the Depot burned down Sarah built the Thomas Hotel.

The portrait came from a fellow whose call sign is, "Stumpy 42". I'm contacting him to see if he has more info and photos. His line is extended from the Halls thru Sarah's first husband, Cozad.

Robert Price Dear, our great uncle, married their daughter, Fannie Thomas. This is why there are two gravestones for Fannie Dear in Oakland.

And, how do we know she had blue-green eyes ?

Cheers,
Wally

Smith Brothers

Notes from Email

Wally Dunsmoor
September 26 2025

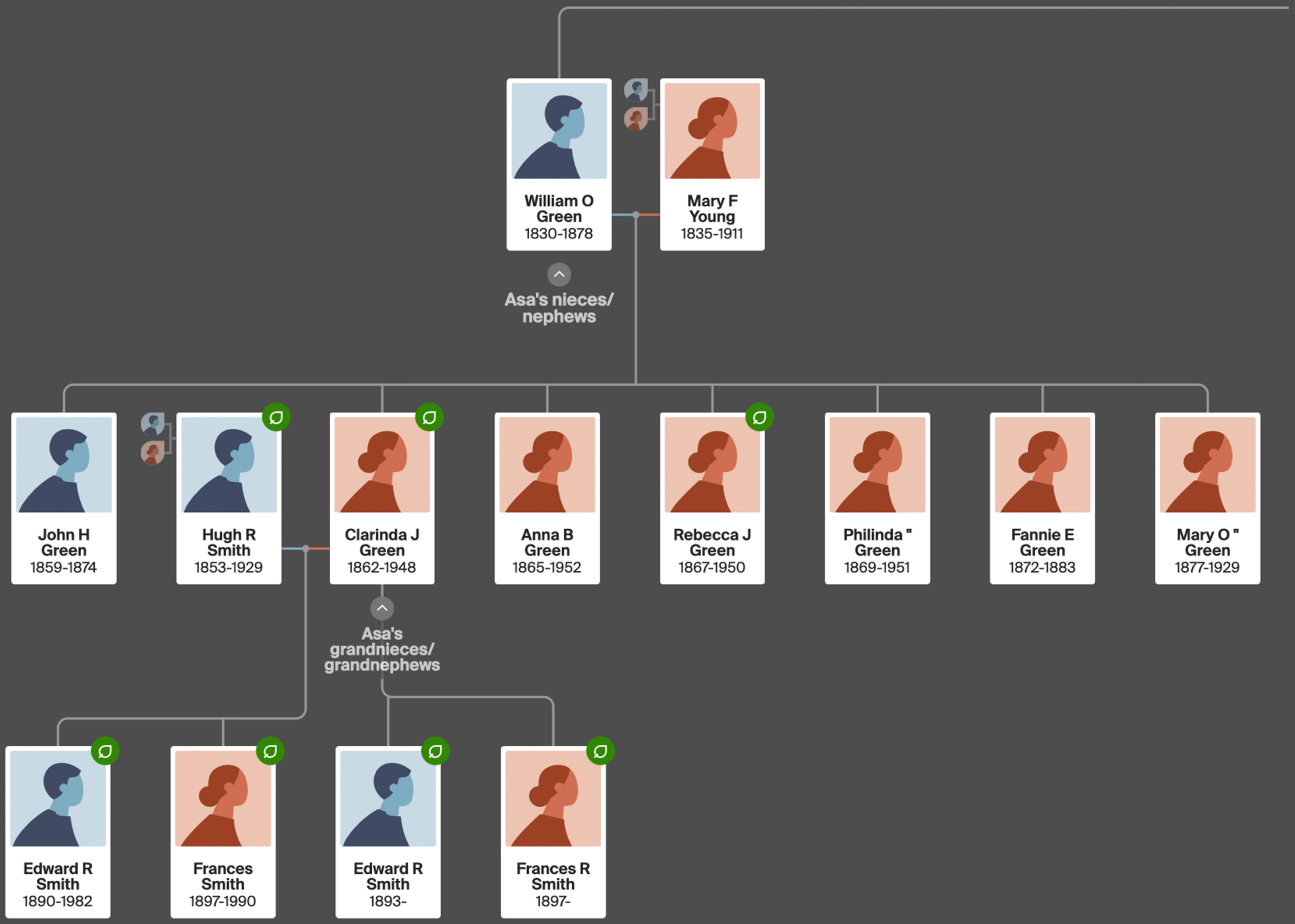
Hi Jeff,

Just digging thru the cedar chest for more old photos and re-found this one of my great uncle, Virgil, right, and his brother, Floyd. Their father owned the Smith Livery Stable just 1 block down Locust from the Young bank. I previously bought the photo of the stable with their dad; old Fred Smith and Fred's father from the museum and will include it, and this one, in my extended Oakland report. Oh yeah, they had a pen behind the house with 400 turkeys ! I also have a bit of a story about my aunt Ruth, her turkeys, coyotes and Aunt Ruth's shotgun...

Virgil was married to my grandma's older sister, Ruth. They had a ranch up Driver valley from Oakland. I stayed there in 58' & 60' riding their horses and shooting the lever rifle from a trained horse named Mickey. Nothing could have been better when your 12-14.

I believe that they are wearing, "Douglas County Sheriffs Posse" uniform. They did that for years and we would sometimes catch them at various rodeos or parades. I need to look into an old story that was about the posse gunning down some robbers and they were there. Too bad I didn't take notes when they were all with us.

Wally


William O Green 1830-1878
Mary F Young 1835-1911
Asa's nieces/ nephews
John H Green 1859-1874
Hugh R Smith 1853-1929
Clarinda J Green 1862-1948
Anna B Green 1865-1952
Rebecca J Green 1867-1950
Philinda " Green 1869-1951
Fannie E Green 1872-1883
Mary O " Green 1877-1929
Asa's grandnieces/ grandnephews
Edward R Smith 1890-1982
Frances Smith 1897-1990
Edward R Smith 1893-
Frances R Smith 1897-

Mary Francis Young

Notes from Email
Wally Dunsmoor
September 24 2025

Hi Jeff,

My last bit of fun this morning, before the work starts. I've been looking at the family of Wm O Green and the connections to the Terwillingers of Portland. Also, on Wm's mother's page, Philinda Lee, there is a description of coming over the trail and the drowning of Wm's father at the Snake River. This seems like a well researched story. Not so full of what my grandma called, "hogwash", which in polite company became, "Tall Tales". Supposedly, the Terwilligers came on the Meek cutoff ! Mrs. Terwilliger died after they diverted to the Dalles. Mentions her death occurring on the North side of the Columbia during their portage arguing the falls.

Figuring that Mary Francis Young was the family linkage between the Youngs and the Bakers. William Green died in 78', Mary and children were left with considerable property next to the homes of Edward F Baker and Dorsey S Baker. So, this is the home open to the Young & Dear families in Walla Walla.

Wally

Cookhouse Crew

Notes from Email

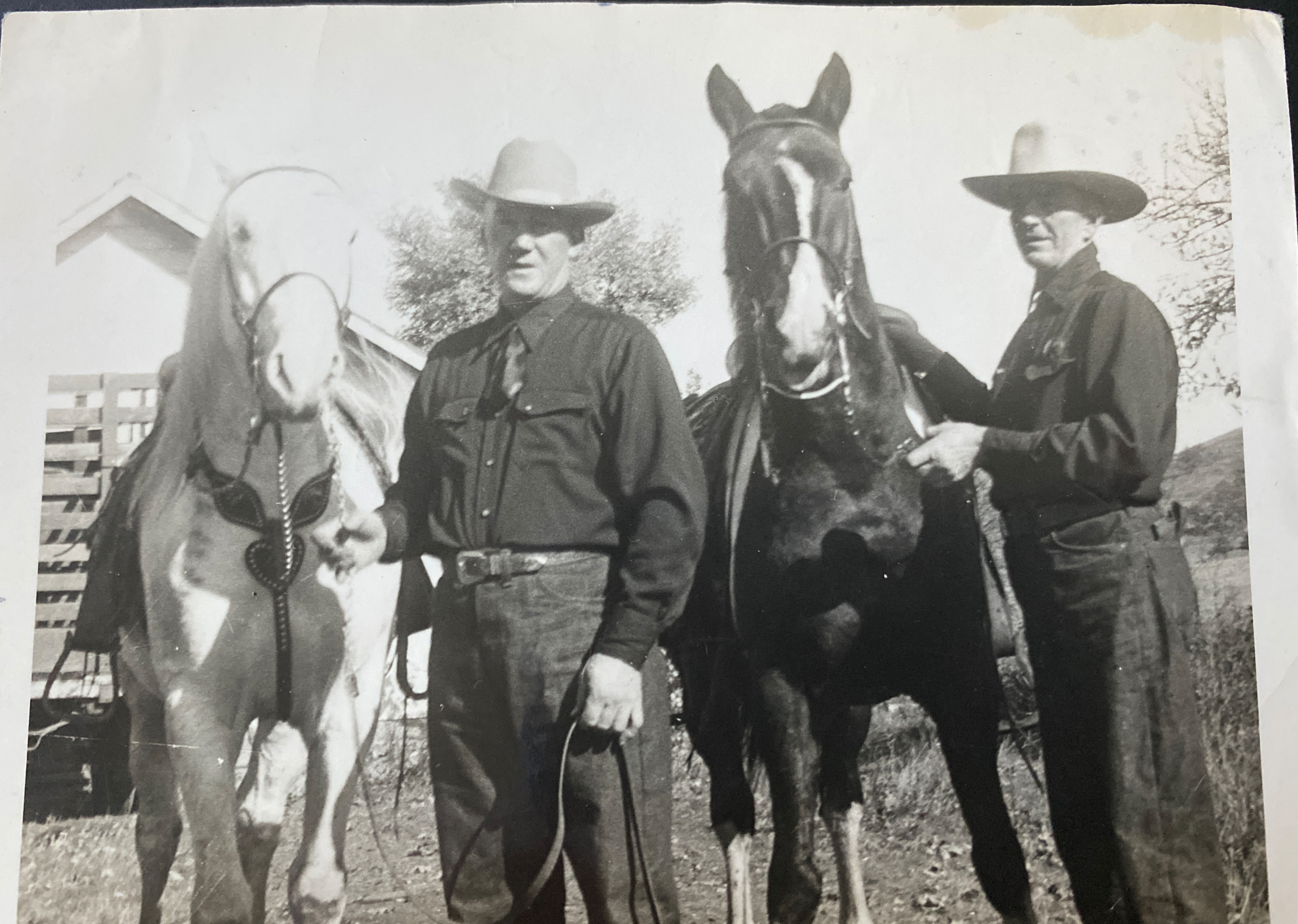
Wally Dunsmoor
September 21 2025

Hi Jeff,

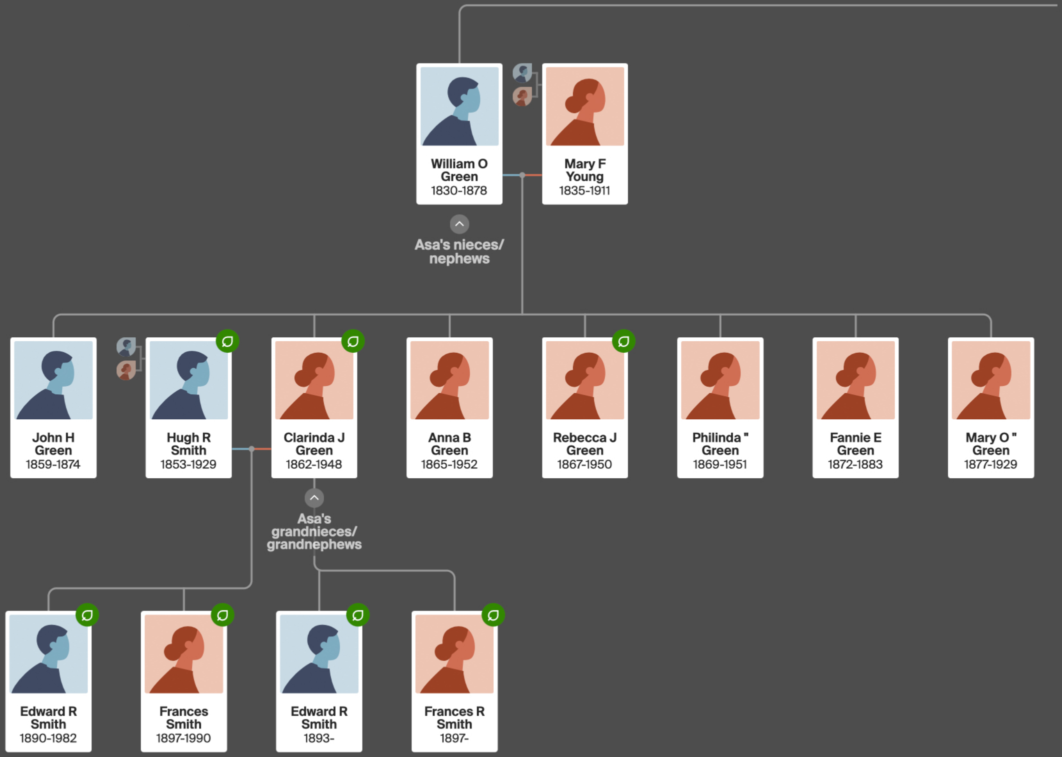
Looking for a photo or two to send you I just realised that this old photo of my grandma (which she didn't destroy) that I thought was from her days after the divorce when she worked up in the mill town is actually from the Farm. Now, after comparing the photos of the house from 1934, I think this is her at the farm alongside, maybe, her sister-in-law, Mary Amanda Dear.

Well, I have another photo of her probably taken on the farm as well. Of course, in that photo she cut everyone else out of the photo…nice to know she wasn't so through in blacking out her Dear past.

w.



Leon!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